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# Grapevine Independent

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PROUDLY SERVING RANCHO CORDOVA & SACRAMENTO COUNTY

November 14, 2014

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**in SVC Finale**



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## Local Filmmakers to Premier



Red Bench Entertainment is producing *Incongruity*, a film that will premier at Curtis Hall, Sierra 2 Center for the Arts, Sacramento, on December 27th. The entire cast poses in character (above). Photo courtesy of Richard McHenry. Makeup artist Becca Tocci prepares actress Jenae Noble (photo at left) for her role as a zombie in Red Bench Entertainment's film *Incongruity*. A resident of Rancho Cordova, Noble was also in a recent stage production of *Little Women* for the group. Photo courtesy of Emily Lao

Story by Margaret Snider

**SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - Red Bench Entertainment writer and director Angela Zaniboni calls the film *Incongruity*, which she wrote and directed, a supernatural

drama. The film will premiere at a gala event with the theme *The Great Gatsby*. The show will be 5-10 p.m. on December 27th at Curtis Hall, Sierra 2 Center for the Arts, Sacramento. The family-friendly event will showcase Red Bench's work.

"There will be slide shows, videos, movies, projects that we've done," said Cheryl

Rubio Barrios, CEO of Red Bench and producer and executive director of the film. "The finale will be (the showing of) *Incongruity*."

Appetizers and drinks, socializing and mixing will tie in with the 1920s theme.

"There will be dancing, singing, and even

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**Rancho Cordova**  
**Holiday Art Gallery**

**RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG)** - If you are searching for a one-of-a-kind holiday gift, Rancho Cordova artists are ready to help. Works by more than a dozen local artists are on sale this weekend at a pop-up Holiday Art Gallery at the Capital Village shopping area, 3231 Zinfandel Drive, Suite 3.

Oils, acrylics, pottery, watercolor, encaustic wax, and other media in a range of prices can be found among dozens of works of fine art at the gallery, which will be open three weekends between now and Christmas.

Gallery hours are 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on November 14-16, November 28-30, and December 12-14. The gallery will be open until 9 p.m. on November 30th, the evening of the Cordova Community Christmas Tree lighting at nearby Village Green Park, 3141 Bridgeway Drive.

"This is a unique opportunity to find an art treasure produced in Rancho Cordova while supporting local talent," said Shelly Blanchard, executive director of the Cordova Community Council, the sponsoring organization.

The Holiday Art Gallery project is also sponsored by the Capital Village Shopping Center management and Rancho Cordova Arts.

Produced by the Cordova Community Council, the Holiday Art Gallery is a collaborative project of many local artists. Space has been donated by the Capital Village Shopping Center, and participating artists will be on hand during gallery hours to discuss their works and handle transactions. All proceeds benefit participating artists, thereby supporting the city's blossoming art scene.

Participating artists include Kate Carroll, Aileen Florentz, Judy Gustafson, Ron Hall, Annette Heacox, Pat Hofmaster,

Continued on page 2

## Winter Shelter Initiative Proceeds, Volunteers Sought

Story and photos  
 by Margaret Snider

**RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG)** - Although originally hoping for eight host sites, Rancho Cordova's new Interfaith Rotating Winter Shelter will proceed, covering four weeks from December 28th through January 24th. An intake site is greatly needed, and the effort is actively seeking volunteers to staff the program.

Many cities are addressing or planning to address the problem of homelessness, including the City of Davis, whose pattern Rancho Cordova is following, as well as Roseville, Elk Grove, and Citrus Heights. Sacramento Steps Forward and the Interfaith Council of Greater Sacramento are working together to focus on homelessness in the downtown Sacramento region.

"Any planned and serious effort to help with hunger and shelter is manna from heaven—appreciated, recognized, and sought after," said Jon Fish, president of the Greater Sacramento

Interfaith Council, speaking of the Rancho Cordova effort. "We always sing the praises of those who serve and help."

Responsibilities for the Rancho Cordova area have been divided to facilitate working in teams. The responsibility for the intake center has been taken on by Inez Reyes of St. John Vianney Catholic Church. Reyes was recently re-elected as chair of the Cordova Recreation and Park District Board. Two or three people will man the intake site for the shelter program each day between 4 and 6 p.m., seven days a week, during the four weeks so far covered. The Davis

winter shelter program has made their manual of intake guidelines available. Reyes can be contacted at (916) 708-8026 or at inezreyes888@yahoo.com.

Transportation and moving of equipment is led by Larry Stafford, director of outreach and involvement, Cordova Church of Christ. He is also chairman of the board of Cordova Community Council. Stafford can be reached at (916) 247-6104 and or at larrys@cordovachurch.com.

"We've gotten help as far as a truck being loaned out so we can do our transfers," Stafford said. "And we do have a church that

Continued on page 7



Members of Sun River Church in Rancho Cordova look over the Interfaith Rotating Winter Shelter Host-Site Volunteer Guidelines. From left are Chris Ireland of Orangevale, Karen Edwards of Citrus Heights, Kirsten Gable of Carmichael, and Josh Shoemaker of Rancho Cordova.

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# Holiday Stockings Needed for Formerly Homeless Women and Children



Local residents can bring smiles to formerly homeless women and children this holiday season by giving to Women's Empowerment's annual Holiday Stocking Drive. The group is seeking 250 stockings and specific fillers for local infants, toddlers, children, teens, and adult women.

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - Local residents can bring smiles to formerly homeless women and children this holiday season by giving to Women's Empowerment's annual Holiday Stocking Drive. The group is seeking 250 stockings and specific fillers for local infants, toddlers, children, teens, and adult women. For the list of items needed and drop-off details, visit [www.womens-empowerment.org](http://www.womens-empowerment.org). Those interested can also donate \$30 to have a volunteer elf fill a stocking or donate Target gift cards. Stockings for adults and teens are especially needed. Items are needed by December 5th and can be dropped off at 1590

North A Street, Sacramento. For more information, contact Kate Towson at [kate@womens-empowerment.org](mailto:kate@womens-empowerment.org) or (916) 669-2307. "It's such a beautiful and moving experience to surprise women and children once homeless with holiday cheer and necessary items needed to stay warm as they celebrate their first holiday season in their new homes," said Lisa Culp, executive director. "We hope the local community will be part of this magical experience by filling a stocking for these amazing women and children." Women's Empowerment offers the most comprehensive job-readiness program in the Sacramento area, designed

specifically for women who are homeless and their children. The 2014 Organization of the Year has graduated 1,177 homeless women and their 2,552 children. Last year, 81% of graduates found homes and 90% found jobs or enrolled in school or training. The program combines self-esteem courses, job training, health classes, and support services to help homeless women across diverse ages, races, and cultures. Women's Empowerment is funded solely through private donations from the community. To donate online, please visit [www.womens-empowerment.org](http://www.womens-empowerment.org). Source: Kristin Thébaud Communications ★

# Small Train Holiday at the Railroad Museum

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - To help you get into the spirit of the season (and as an alternative to the post-Thanksgiving shopping rush), California State Parks and the California State Railroad Museum are proud to present a two-day "Small Train Holiday!" Visitors of all ages will be dazzled by a magical assortment of trains, hundreds of feet of track and an array of buildings and accessories. They will marvel at the variety of locomotives that pull pretend passengers and scaled-down shipments through all kinds of scenery, whether modeled on real places or created in the imaginations of devoted collectors. In addition, guests will enjoy rides aboard the Museum's iconic Interpretive Handcar, story time with Mrs. Claus, a discovery-filled scavenger hunt and

more. Mark your calendar to visit the California State Railroad Museum on November 28 and 29 for the special "Small Train Holiday" for two days only. Small Train Holiday is Friday, November 28th and Saturday, November 29th, 1 a.m.-5 p.m. at the California State Railroad Museum, 125 I Street,

Sacramento. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for youths ages 6-17, and free for children five and under. For more information, call (916) 323-9280 or visit [www.csrmm.org](http://www.csrmm.org). Source: T-Rock Communications ★

## Rancho Cordova Holiday Art Gallery

*Continued from page 1*  
Sheri Kindsvater, Marsha Mason, Linda Nunes, Terri Patterson, Florence Skiadas, Patience Vargas, Donine Wellman, and Sid Wellman. More than 100 works by more than 40 local artists are also on display at Rancho Cordova City Hall, where Rancho Cordova

Arts' Fall Show continues until early January. The Fall Show is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays or anytime Rancho Cordova City Hall is open. Admission is free of charge. For more information, please visit [www.cordovacouncil.org](http://www.cordovacouncil.org). Source: Cordova Community Council ★

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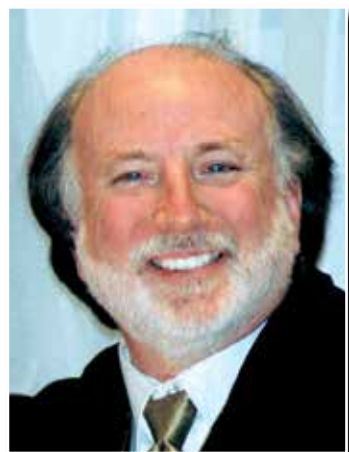
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# Residents Celebrate City's Accomplishments Over Past Year

Story by Julia Baum

**RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG)** - With several development project ground-breakings, an influx of new businesses, and a city government that won national recognition, Rancho Cordova residents, city staff, and council members had plenty to cheer about at the city's annual State of the City address on November 6th.

Several hundred members of the community turned up at City Hall for a speech by Mayor Dan Skoglund, during which he reflected back on various events and accomplishments and gave a preview of future projects to benefit Rancho Cordova.

In addition to a Folsom Lake College extension scheduled to open in fall 2015, Skoglund said in an interview after his speech that he is most excited about the recent groundbreaking on the Mather Veterans Village, a

future housing development for homeless veterans. Plans have been in the works since 2008 and will involve input from multiple agencies at all levels of government, as well as the non-profit organization Mercy Housing, according to Skoglund. Housing will be built by the Mather Commerce Center, near the Sacramento VA Medical Center.

"It will be most beneficial in that area as far as helping homeless vets," Skoglund said. "It's so rare that we've got city, county, state, and federal components of a project."

Local resident Derald Langwell said that he was also excited about Veterans Village and impressed by the number of events thrown by the city.

Multiple new businesses also opened shop in the Rancho Cordova area during the 2013-2014 year, including Scooter's Coffee and Yogurt at the renovated Rivergate Shopping Center, and Karaoke Gangnam Style at Koreana



City Manager Dr. Brian Nakamura enjoys dinner with fellow attendees.



Several hundred members of the community turned up at City Hall for a speech by Mayor Dan Skoglund

Plaza. Also in the works is a proposed entertainment center at Kilgore and Trade Center, which would include a movie theater, bowling alley, sports bar, and more.

Other notable achievements included the City of Rancho Cordova making Fortune magazine's "25 Best Small Workplaces" list again. The honor is unique due to it being the first local government agency to appear on the list, which recognizes companies with exceptional workplace cultures. The

city made the list previously in 2012.

Resident Angel Ball attended the speech for the first time with her husband, Greg. Ball runs the group Volunteers In Neighborhoods Service, which meets monthly to improve local areas, including a recent clean-up on Folsom Blvd. and Coloma Rd. She was interested in attending to connect more with the community and gain more awareness of local events.

"It really is a great city and great place to live," Ball said. "I think it was

a pretty down-to-earth event. Coming to these kinds of events allows me to see what people attend."

Greg Ball was impressed by the good working relationship among city staff and council members, and progress made, despite occasional disagreements.

"What they all have in common is they look forward, and I think they're trying to move Rancho Cordova ahead," Ball said. "They share a common view; they all want what's best for Rancho Cordova." ★



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# Ninth Annual Veterans Day Event

**RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG)** - The City of Rancho Cordova held their 9th annual Veterans Day Celebration on Tuesday, November 11th in the Veterans Memorial Plaza at the Sacramento VA Medical Center. The theme was "Appreciating the USO for Lifting the Spirits of Our Military Forces Past and Present," and featured Sister Swing performing 30s and 40s jazz, the Rancho Cordova River City Concert Band, and the Vultures Row Formation Team who performed a flyover at the end of the ceremony.

Vice Mayor Robert J. McGarvey opened the program, and retired Lieutenant Colonel Bob Burns Sr. emceed. Speakers included David Stockwell, the Director of VA Northern California Health Care System; Congressman Ami Bera; Assemblyman Ken Cooley; Rancho Cordova Mayor Dan Skoglund; Brigadier General Jack Hagan, former Commander General of the California State Military Reserve; and Colonel Michael Wells, Undersecretary for Operations, California Department of Veterans Affairs.

The Cordova High School USAF Jr. ROTC presented and retired the colors under the direction of USAF Retired Lieutenant Colonel Richard J. Keys and USAF Retired Chief Master Sergeant Raymond E. Kirkland.

Source: City of Rancho Cordova ★



The City of Rancho Cordova held their 9th annual Veterans Day Celebration on Tuesday, November 11th in the Veterans Memorial Plaza at the Sacramento VA Medical Center. The ceremony paid tribute to all U.S. military Veterans. Assemblyman Ken Cooley addresses the crowd at Veterans Memorial Plaza. Lyle Seeband (above right) plays bagpipes at the 9th annual Veterans Day event. Ken Cooley addresses the crowd (center left). Sister Swing (below right), a vocal trio, performed jazz music from the 30s and 40s. Photos vby Rick Sloan



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Bob McGarvey

## Free to Dream ...

continue to be seen during the next 10 years as reaching more of our needs and dreams.

I hope that the Governor, with his new four-year term in office, will find some of his dreams that are also the dreams of some of the people who hired him for the next four years. All Californians are looking for the Governor and Legislature to make wise decisions regarding our lack of water. The water bond that we passed can be helpful in doing the best we can with the little water we have received so far and will receive in the near future. I also hope that passing Proposition 1 will not be a pre-cursor of another go-round at trying to pass a "Peripheral Canal", "Twin Tunnels", or whatever else it may be called bill. That would be a terrible error by the people we just hired in the Assembly, the Senate, and the Governor's office.

The dreams of some of the people who hired those elected live in the Cities of Jurupa Valley, Eastvale, Menifee, and Wildomar. Their dreams of continued cityhood, (even though they have already incorporated) are in the hands of the State government; particularly the Governor's hands because of his veto of SB 69. I guess we'll see.

At Mather (I still find it coming up in my mind as Mather A.F.B.), we have been able to help the Veterans in different ways. The Citizens Advisory Committee has watched and advised as the Mather Community Campus helped

get hundreds of former homeless people back on their feet and joining their families again. About 20 to 25% of those folks are Veterans.

There are now two ways to exit Mather when leaving the VA Hospital; you can still leave on Mather Field Road but you can also now leave the hospital on Femoyer Street and go to International Drive. The ground breaking ceremony for "Mather Veterans Village" was a great joint effort with many organizations. Now I know that most of what I just said about Mather are things I have said before, but I am still asked about some of those things, so I thought that saying some of them one more time wouldn't hurt.

The elections are almost completed - votes are still being counted for Congressional District 7. Voter turnout was very disappointing but no one seems to know what is needed to get a higher turnout. Congratulations to Mayor Dan Skoglund, Councilmember Linda Budge, and Assemblyman Ken Cooley. I will include more in the future but for now, "congrats" to them.

All of our Veterans were honored at the Veterans Day celebration at Mather this year. We thanked the USO for the wonderful things they have done and are still doing for Veterans and their families.

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



By Sal Arrigo, Jr.

## Crisis in Feeding the Hungry

John Vianney Church located at 10497 Coloma Road, Rancho Cordova, and one of the driving forces at the Cordova Food Locker, is asking the public for additional help this year. Cash donations to purchase turkeys are also gratefully accepted.

According to Walt, the United States government has cut the budget funding for the poor by \$8,000,000 at a time when many families need assistance the most. The Cordova Community Food Locker has seen the addition of hundreds of clients each month over the past year, and the Food Locker is in need of at least 1200 turkeys for Thanksgiving. Walt told me, "the community stepped up last year to help, and we need that same effort even more this year." You can contact Walt Little at the Food Locker at

(916) 364-8973. Turkeys can be dropped off at the Cordova Food Locker or the church office on the following dates from noon to 5:00 p.m.

**Saturday, November 15, 2014**  
**Sunday, November 16, 2014**  
**Saturday, November 22, 2014**  
**Sunday, November 23, 2014**

The Food Locker is also in need of volunteers when the food distribution begins.

On Monday, November 24, 2014, Rancho Cordova Kiwanis will assist the Cordova Community Food Locker in giving what they have to those who are in need. Distribution begins at 8:30 a.m. Thank you, everyone, for helping with such a worthy and local cause. ★

In the November 9, 2014 issue of the Sacramento Bee, a headline caught my attention that brought back memories of a newspaper writer's comment about 11 years ago. Bill Whalen, in a special article to the Bee, made a comment about Governor Brown. Whalen wrote that the Governor was then free to dream and dare as he saw fit. But the headline was "After election, free to dream and dare." In the San Francisco Chronicle more than 11 years ago, an editorial writer, Louis Freedberg, wrote about Rancho Cordova and our neighbors. In it he said, "Rancho Cordova and its neighbors have, in essence, recaptured some of the spirit and energy that built California. It may be just a matter of time before the new California morphs into the old California, and also becomes a tight tangle of houses, traffic and malls. Rancho Cordova's new city fathers will have to work hard to avoid that fate. But for now, there is ample room to grow, and amazingly, room to dream." I would like to think that with the successes we have been able to accomplish in Rancho Cordova so far, we will

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# Film *Incongruity* to Premier at Event in Sacramento

Continued from Page 1

some live acting," Zaniboni said. Zaniboni and Barrios, who live in Citrus Heights, founded the nonprofit in 2012 to provide a chance for people of all ages to practice the creative arts they love. The organization also fosters those who may not have means to pursue their passion by traditional, more expensive methods.

Red Bench holds open auditions for their productions. In *Incongruity*, Andrew Ramsey of Carmichael plays a photographer who lost his young daughter in an automobile accident a few years before. While always interested in writing and directing, Ramsey only recently decided to try his hand at acting. The audition notice for the film was the first he heard of Red Bench.

"It's a small, unique group, an eclectic group of people that I've met," Ramsey said. "They seem to me like a family and I love that, it's a great environment. . . It's up to you as an actor to bring the role to life yourself and take your own experiences and put it into that. And that's a very unique challenge."

Learning the lines is one of her challenges, said Gloria Estela of Sacramento. "You not only have to remember your lines," she said, "but you have to remember the lines of the person that you're acting with in that scene. If you don't know their lines you can't really know yours."

In *Incongruity*, Estela, recently



The Great Gatsby is the theme for the premier of Red Bench Entertainment's film *Incongruity*. Pictured left to right are Angelica Fey Burger, Zoe Duensing, and Kara Schunk. Burger and Schunk are actors in the film, which is set in the 1920s. Zoe Duensing is a member of Red Bench Entertainment. Photo courtesy of Richard McHenry

returned to acting after a hiatus, portrays a reporter who has "messed up big time." She has appeared in other short films, mostly for film festivals in Sacramento. Like Ramsey, she is thrilled with Red Bench. "They let us, the actors, really stretch. I don't know how to say it—exercise our acting skills and feel safe about it. They don't box us in, they let us fly free."

The part of the photographer's daughter, Mara, is played by Jenae Noble, 16, of Rancho Cordova, who recently costarred in the Red Bench stage production of *Little Women*. Playing Mara is difficult, Noble said. "The challenge is switching between personalities. It's like (the character) is this little girl

trying to portray Mara, and she's also this demonic 'I'm gonna slit your throat' kind of person."

Other roles are played by Kara Schunk, Romero Partida, Angelica Fey Berger, Mitch Darnell, and Jacquelyn Howard. Four children have parts as well: April Houston, 8, of North Highlands, always wanted to be in a movie and is looking forward to seeing herself on the screen.

Bruce Saechao, 6, is also from North Highlands and acting for the first time. For Saechao, the hardest part of being in a movie is the waiting and the sitting. "I'm the part that does the most sitting," he said. "I practice a lot."

Serenidy Acosta, 7, of Elk Grove, looked surprised when asked if acting was hard. "It's easy," she said. "I've been acting for a lot of years."

Isabel Mullin, 8, is also one of the child actors.

Barrios said that Zaniboni has written an incredible script. "It keeps you at the edge of your seat, and you want to know more of what's going to happen. . . kind of a mind game type of film."

The *Great Gatsby* premier event is by invitation only, but members of the public who are interested in attending may call (916) 599-2651 to see if tickets are available, or visit the website at [www.redbenchentertainment.com](http://www.redbenchentertainment.com). ★



Romero Partida and Guljemal Amanaliyeva start a take on the filming of Red Bench Entertainment's film *Incongruity*. The film will premier at an event on December 27th at Curtis Hall, Sierra 2 Center for the Arts, Sacramento. Photo courtesy of Emily Lao

# Californians are Rising to the Conservation Challenge, but Must Not Relent

Commentary by Paul Schubert, Northern District General Manager, Golden State Water

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - There's no telling what rainfall the upcoming winter will provide California. Chances are, even above-average rainfall totals wouldn't adequately replenish the state's reservoirs, streams and lakes that have been depleted by three straight years of drought.

Thanks to years of proactive planning and continued long-term investments in water infrastructure, Golden State Water Company has maintained a stable water supply for its local customers during this unprecedented drought. But, some communities in California have run dry.

Earlier this year, Governor Jerry Brown declared a drought state of emergency and challenged all Californians to curb their water use by 20 percent, calling for immediate action to strengthen the state's ability to manage water and habitat effectively in drought conditions. [1]

Water conservation is no longer a "should do" for Californians, it is a "must do" to ensure we have a reliable water supply.

Recent data indicates that many areas throughout the state have risen to the Governor's challenge and changed their water-use practices to better manage this precious resource.

A recent report from the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) highlighted a statewide reduction of 10.3 percent in urban water use for

September, compared to the same period last year. During the three months that represent much of the summer season, Californians reduced their water use by 67.6 billion gallons from July through September in comparison to 2013.[2]

Locally, Golden State Water's customers in its Arden Cordova Customer Service Area, which serves parts of Arden Manor, Gold River and portions within the city of Rancho Cordova, saved more than 84.5 million gallons in September and 71.6 million gallons in October over the same months last year.

Through the first 10 months of this year (January-October), Golden State Water's local customers have reduced their usage by more than 779 million gallons compared to that same period in 2013. That's the equivalent of almost 1,180 Olympic-size swimming pools or approximately 6.2 billion 16-ounce bottles of drinking water.

Customers deserve praise for their efforts, but we all must continue to improve our water-use efficiency and close the gap to achieving a 20 percent statewide reduction in usage.

Golden State Water would like to remind the local community of the State Water Board's mandatory restrictions that prohibit the following actions (except in case of health or safety needs or to comply with a term or condition in a permit issued by a state or federal agency):

Watering outdoor landscapes in a way that causes water to "runoff" onto adjacent property, non-irrigated areas, private and public walkways, roadways,

parking lots, or structures.

Washing a vehicle, with a hose without a shut-off nozzle or other device that will immediately stop the flow of water when not in use.

Using drinking water to wash driveways and sidewalks.

Using drinking water in a fountain or other decorative water feature, except where the water is recirculated.

Violation of these restrictions may be punished by a fine of up to \$500 for each day in which the violation occurs. A public agency representative may issue a citation in accordance with locally adopted municipal codes, adopted ordinances, or in cooperation with Golden State Water.

Customers wanting to report water waste in their community are encouraged to visit [gswater.com/report-water-wasteor](http://gswater.com/report-water-wasteor) contact Golden State Water's 24-hour Customer Service Center at 800-999-4033.

Golden State Water always encourages the responsible use of water and offers online resources, tools and information at [gswater.com](http://gswater.com) to help customers analyze their usage and identify opportunities to improve their water-use efficiency.

[1] Source: Office of Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr., State of California, "Governor Brown Issues Executive Order to Redouble State Drought Actions."

[2] Source: State Water Resources Control Board, State of California, "Per Capita Daily Water Use Numbers Released by the State Water Board."

Source: Randle Communications ★

# The Passage of Proposition 47

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - Effective immediately, the passage of Proposition 47 will have the following effects on the custody and policing practices of the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department:

In most instances, many crimes that were previously "arrestable" as a felony will now only be "citable" as a misdemeanor. That means they may not be booked into jail but rather given a citation (similar to a traffic ticket) with a court date to appear, and released in the field. They will not be held pending trial. Such felony crimes that are now misdemeanors include:

**Commercial burglary (theft under \$950)**

**Forgery and bad checks (under \$950 value)**

**Theft of most firearms**

**Theft of a vehicle (under \$950 value)**

**Possession of stolen property (under \$950 value)**

**Possession of heroin, cocaine, illegal prescriptions, concentrated cannabis, and methamphetamine**

Inmates awaiting trial on any of the above felony charges in most instances will be able to have their charges immediately reduced to the new misdemeanor level, and will be let out of jail on a citation. A determination as to each person's eligibility is somewhat time consuming,

but could result in up to 420 releases.

Inmates who are sentenced on the above felonies can petition the court for reduction of their felony convictions to misdemeanors and many of them would be also be eligible for immediate release.

Convicted felons with the above felonies in their history can petition the court to have their prior felony convictions reduced to misdemeanors. If successful, many of the prohibitions they faced would then be reinstated, such as the right to vote, the right to purchase a handgun, the ability to apply as a peace officer, etc.

Source: Sacramento County Sheriff's Department ★

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## Rancho Cordova Police Department Receives Grant for Special Traffic Enforcement and Crash Prevention

**RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG)** - The Rancho Cordova Police Department (RCPD), through the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department, has been awarded a new traffic safety grant for a year-long program aimed at preventing deaths and injuries on our roadways. The \$275,000 grant awarded by the Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) to the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department to be used within the City of Rancho Cordova will aid in the city's ongoing effort to improve traffic safety and the quality of life. In a continuing effort to save lives and prevent injuries on our city streets, the RCPD and Mercy San Juan Medical Center are once again joining forces to provide better traffic enforcement and a forum to provide child safety seat education to a greater segment of the

Rancho Cordova Community. After falling dramatically between 2006 and 2010, the number of persons killed and injured in traffic collisions saw slight increases in 2011 and 2012. Particularly worrisome are recent increases in pedestrian and motorcycle fatalities and the dangers of distracting technologies. This grant funding will provide opportunities to combat these and other devastating problems such as drunk and drugged driving and speeding. Funding for this program is from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Activities that the grant will fund include specialized DUI and drugged driving training such as Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (SFST),

Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE), and Drug Recognition Evaluator (DRE); DUI saturation patrols; motorcycle safety enforcement; distracted driving enforcement; seat belt and child safety seat enforcement; speed, red light, and stop sign enforcement; and compilation of DUI Hot Sheets identifying worst-of-the-worst DUI offenders. The educational goal will be accomplished through training provided by the Mercy San Juan Medical Center and will provide assistance to multilingual trainers to allow child safety seat information to be disseminated to the primarily Russian, Spanish, and Hmong speaking communities of Rancho Cordova. *Source: Sacramento County Sheriff's Department* ★

## Winter Shelter Initiative Proceeds, Volunteers Sought

*Continued from Page 1* has volunteered to be transporting between intake sites and host churches."

Host site volunteers are the responsibility of Karen Edwards, leader of women's ministry at Sun River Church and one of the major organizers of the program. She can be contacted at (916) 201-4633 or at karen@sunriverchurch.com.

The bulk of the volunteers will be serving at host sites, and Edwards has developed a booklet of guidelines that outline the responsibilities for the team coordinators and dinner, hospitality, overnight, and morning teams. Every day of the four-week period will need volunteers for all of these duties. The guidelines spell out responsibilities, helpful tips and notes, and even suggest dinner and breakfast bag ideas, evening activities, and cleanup chores that guests might perform. Additionally, leaders of each of the teams are available as resources along every step of the process.

The Give One Day campaign, asking individuals to give the amount spent on one day of mortgage or rent, is still running



The Interfaith Rotating Winter Shelter is looking for volunteers from the community to assist with the shelter in Rancho Cordova during the winter. From left, Claudia Beigel of St. John Vianney Catholic Church and Nan Traud and Karen Edwards of Sun River Church work on planning the volunteer effort.

through the end of the year. Donations are halfway to the goal.

Churches participating actively in this cause are Sun River Church, St. John Vianney Catholic Church, Cordova Church of Christ, Cordova Neighborhood Church, First Covenant Church, Grace Lutheran Church, and the Sacramento Cordova Stake of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The first four are providing a host site for one week

each. "It feels like a small drop in a big bucket, but it's our start," Edwards said. "We would have loved to have had eight weeks, but we are really excited about four."

For further information or to sign up as a volunteer, donate, or see what your church can do, contact one of the team coordinators above or visit [www.cordovawintershelter.org](http://www.cordovawintershelter.org). ★

## Veterans Village Groundbreaking at Mather

**MATHER, CA (MPG)** - Helping shovel dirt at the recent groundbreaking ceremony for the first phase of the Mather Veterans Village are Rancho Cordova Council Member Linda Budge (left), Council Member Donald Terry, Mayor Dan Skoglund, California Assemblyman Ken Cooley, and Vice Mayor Robert McGarvey. Located down the street from the Sacramento VA Medical Center, Phase 1 will include 44 one-bedroom and six two-bedroom permanent supportive homes for disabled and homeless veterans, offices, and meeting space. Construction will begin in December and the first residents are expected to move in by April 2016. The project is the result of years of collaboration between Mercy Housing California and Veterans Resource Centers of America,



Rancho Cordova Council Member Linda Budge (left), Council Member Donald Terry, Mayor Dan Skoglund, California Assemblyman Ken Cooley, and Vice Mayor Robert McGarvey. Photo courtesy of City of Rancho Cordova

the City of Rancho Cordova, Sacramento County, Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency, and the Sacramento Veterans Administration Medical

Center/VA Northern California Health Care System. *Source: City of Rancho Cordova* ★

## Joint Community Project Builds Playground and Repairs Two Houses



Rancho Cordova, CA (MPG) - With help from Cordova Gardens Elementary School students, Carter Oosterhouse of HGTV's Million Dollar Rooms and Celebrity Motor Homes cuts the ribbon to open the new playground area at Soil Born Farms in Rancho Cordova on Thursday, November 6th. Holding the ribbon are Shawn Harrison (far left) and Janet Zeller (far right), co-founders of Soil Born Farms. Looking on are Rancho Cordova Council Member Linda Budge; Dan Gonzales, Sacramento County Recreation and Parks Commission Chair; Sacramento County Supervisor Don Nottoli; and Andrea Jagers from Rebuilding Together Sacramento. Sponsors of the two-day Community Revitalization Effort were Lowe's, Rebuilding Together, and Carter's Kids with support from the City of Rancho Cordova. *Source: City of Rancho Cordova*

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IN MEMORIAM

## Moreno Balantac

10/15/1932 – 10/28/2014

Born October 15, 1932 in French Camp, California; passed away peacefully, surrounded by his family, on October 28, 2014 in Sacramento, California. Preceded in death by his parents Maurino and Caridad Balantac and beloved wife Deanna.

He is survived by his loving children, Marguerite David, Denise Smith (Emilito), David Balantac (Jodi), and Matthew Balantac (Janene); brother, Gene Balantac; sister, Josephine Nicolas; and 13 grandchildren.

After retiring as an Engineer from Aerojet, Moreno continued to be actively involved in

FAHNS, American Legion, Legionarios, and the Rancho Cordova Historical Society, and travelled the world.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to Sacramento State University School of Nursing (Simulation Laboratory Fund), 6000 J Street, Sacramento, CA 95819-6096, Attn: Dr. Carolyn Goetze, School of Nursing Chair; telephone 916-278-7543.

*In keeping with Moreno's last wishes, a private ceremony and internment with his immediate family is planned.*

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6. Automated teller  
9. Grain in "The House That Jack Built"  
13. Send in payment  
14. Indochinese language  
15. Juan or his wife Evita  
16. Administer oil to, often in religious ceremony  
17. Make a choice  
18. Fancy tie  
19. \*Big band music dance  
21. \*Distinctly urban dance  
23. Do needlework  
24. His alter ego was a doctor  
25. Ship pronoun  
28. "I'm \_\_\_ you"  
30. Rubber gaskets  
35. \*Dance to a ballerina  
37. Chows down  
39. Motionless  
40. Aware of  
41. \*Tony Manero's dance  
43. Purse to go with evening gown  
44. Searched, often used with "around"  
46. \*Ballet move  
47. Well-deserved reward  
48. Matured  
50. Lend a hand  
52. "The Catcher in the \_\_\_"  
53. "\_\_\_ we forget"  
55. Beluga yield  
57. \*Montparnasse dance  
60. \*May Day dance prop  
64. Fair market \_\_\_  
65. \*Meryl Davis' and Charlie White's turf  
67. Lowest deck on a ship  
68. Real estate broker, e.g.  
69. Driving hazard  
70. Upholstery choice  
71. Nessie's Loch  
72. Drug approver  
73. \_\_\_ or a spy

**DOWN**  
1. Tennis great Steffi \_\_\_  
2. She is a former U.S. Attorney General  
3. Used for charging  
4. River clay deposits  
5. Three-dimensional sound  
6. A bunch  
7. \*Soft-shoe  
8. Like an eaten blanket?  
9. Mosquito net fabric  
10. a.k.a. Atlantic Richfield Company  
11. \*Ice dancer's jump  
12. Dynamite  
15. School assignments  
20. Had title to  
22. Altar avowal  
24. Uncomfortable position  
25. \*East Coast or West Coast dance  
26. Kind of roll  
27. Having an irregular edge  
29. Peacock's pride  
31. Bookkeeping entry  
32. Fertilizer ingredient  
33. Sticky  
34. \*Electric \_\_\_  
36. Was aware of  
38. Healing sign  
42. Performed at Teatro alla Scala  
45. Pleasing to the ear  
49. Cause of fairytale princess' downfall  
51. "Let's Go Places" vehicle  
54. Use nose as detector  
56. Erasable programmable read only memory  
57. \*Where dancer performed in Whisky a Go Go  
58. Guinness and such  
59. Women in habits  
60. Large, prefix  
61. Assortment  
62. Take it easy  
63. "All for one, one for all" sword  
64. \*MGM song-and-dance star, \_\_\_ Johnson  
66. Atlantic catch

**CROSSWORD**

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3		1		8				

Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

For Solutions See Page 9

Come back every week for Crossword and Sudoku!









# Sacramento Zoo Says Good Bye to Castro the Sumatran Tiger



Castro, the Sacramento Zoo's 16 1/2 year old male Sumatran Tiger who was diagnosed with cancer in February 2013, was euthanized October 29, 2014. Photo by Mike Owyang

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Sacramento Zoo's male Sumatran Tiger, Castro, was euthanized October 29, 2014 at the age of 16 1/2 years. He had been fighting lymphoma, a form of cancer, since February 2013. The decision was made to euthanize Castro when he was no longer able to fight his cancer. Castro exceeded the life expectancy, becoming the longest living large cat diagnosed with lymphoma. He was the oldest breeding male Sumatran tiger in the United States.

"Castro has been an incredible tiger and we have been privileged to care for him. We are extremely thankful to all of the specialists from the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine and the Sacramento Medical community which have rallied to assist us in providing Castro with a long comfortable life," commented Dr. Ray Wack, Senior Veterinarian at the Sacramento Zoo.

Since his lymphoma diagnosis in February 2013, Castro has been receiving oral chemotherapy every day while being closely monitored by veterinarians and zookeepers. While on treatment, Castro regained the weight he had lost and became more active again. His chemotherapy controlled his cancer and maintained a good quality of life. In October 2013, with a

great outpouring of help from the medical community, Castro underwent a minimally-invasive surgery providing relief from partial obstruction near his kidney caused by urinary tract stones. In February 2014 Castro received a complete physical and extensive diagnostic testing to evaluate the status of his cancer and renal disease. During the exam, a miniature camera was placed in his stomach to look for signs of GI ulceration (a potential complication from the chemotherapy). Test results and Castro's behavior at that time indicated that his cancer was adequately controlled and his chronic kidney disease was stable. Recently, Castro's appetite began to decline. Staff has worked diligently to maintain his appetite and weight, enticing him to eat with a multitude of extra-special foods and adding additional medications to stimulate his appetite and minimize his nausea. Sadly, Castro's condition has deteriorated and the Zoo's veterinary and animal care teams made the difficult decision to euthanize him.

"Castro has always been one of our favorite cats. He's been challenging and stubborn at times, but these are also traits that we've loved about him. It often made us laugh when he had to readjust his toys or furniture to just the way he liked

it," said carnivore Zookeeper Amanda Watters. "I am so glad I had the privilege of taking care of him and getting to know him. He was an incredible animal and ambassador for his species who was a favorite of both staff and visitors."

Castro came to the Sacramento Zoo from the Audubon Zoo with his mother in 1999. He and his female companion Bahagia have five living offspring who went to other Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) zoos to participate in Sumatran Tiger Species Survival Plans® (SSP). Those five offspring have produced five cubs to date. Castro and Bahagia's last cub, Castro Jr., more commonly known as CJ, recently went to the Los Angeles Zoo as part of the SSP recommended plan. Sumatran Tigers are critically endangered and found only on the Indonesian island of Sumatra. Fewer than 500 Sumatran Tigers are believed to exist in the wild and approximately 200 live in zoos around the world. The Zoo participates in the Sumatran Tiger SSPs, cooperative breeding and conservation programs designed to maintain genetically viable populations of animals in captivity, and to organize zoo- and aquarium-based efforts to preserve the species in nature.

Source: Sacramento Zoo ★

# 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 ★

# Sacramento County DA Reports

## Recent cases of interest



**CASE: Mark Ramirez (11/07/14)**

**PROSECUTOR: Deputy District Attorney Maria Wilson, Domestic Violence Unit**

District Attorney Jan Scully announced today that the Honorable Sharon Lueras sentenced Mark Ramirez to 18 years in prison. On October 6, 2014, a jury convicted Ramirez of domestic abuse and battery causing serious bodily injury.

On March 3, 2014, Ramirez hit his girlfriend in the head with a sharp instrument. The victim suffered a concussion and a gash to the top of her head requiring staples.

**CASE: Anthony Roberson & Kevin Henry Jr. (11/07/14)**

**PROSECUTOR: Deputy District Attorney Morgan Gire, Gangs & Hate Crimes Unit**

Roberson to life in prison without the possibility of parole, plus 20 years in prison. Kevin Henry Jr. was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole, plus 60 years to life in prison. On September 30, 2014, a jury convicted Roberson and Henry of first-degree murder with a special circumstance of murder committed during the course of a robbery. The jury also convicted the defendants of additional robbery charges and firearm enhancements.

On August 14, 2013, Roberson and Henry traveled from Bakersfield to Sacramento to purchase marijuana. Roberson's friend, Gregory King, arranged the meeting for the defendants to purchase the marijuana from the victim, Colen Lugo, at Caymus Park in South Sacramento.

When Henry tried to grab the bag of marijuana from the victim, they began to struggle over the bag. Both defendants drew handguns from their waistbands and a single shot was fired from one of the guns, striking and killing the victim as he was seated in his van. The defendants then took Gregory King's wallet as he lay on the ground covering his face, and immediately fled to Bakersfield where they were later apprehended.

**CASE: Jason Barton Kirkpatrick (11/07/14)**

**PROSECUTOR: Deputy District Attorney Aaron Miller, Career Criminal Prosecution Unit**

District Attorney Jan Scully announced today that the Honorable Robert Twiss sentenced Jason Barton Kirkpatrick to 250 years to life, plus 50 years in prison under California's Three Strikes Law. On October 10, 2014, a jury convicted Kirkpatrick of 10 counts of second-degree robbery.

The charges stem from six separate robberies Kirkpatrick committed between May 28, 2013 and June 17, 2013. Kirkpatrick used a replica handgun to rob primarily female employees of area small businesses. At the time of the 2013 robberies, he was on parole for a series of robberies he committed in 2006, where he also victimized female employees of area small businesses.

**CASE: Tino Perez (11/03/14)**

**PROSECUTOR: Deputy District Attorney Carlton Davis, Gangs & Hate Crimes Unit**

District Attorney Jan Scully announced that Tino Perez was convicted by jury of premeditated attempted murder, assault with a firearm and committing the crime for the benefit of the Norteños criminal street gang.

On May 11, 2013, the Sacramento State Golf Team had a party. Perez and his friends arrived uninvited, along with many others. After the host ended the party early, several fights occurred. Four of the college students saw a male arguing with a female and thought he was going to hit her. They intervened and convinced the male to leave. Perez arrived on the scene after the male had left. He asked the female, who was his friend, if everything was okay and she told him the four bystanders helped her. Despite this, Perez pulled out a gun and shot the four college students.

Perez faces a maximum potential sentence of 120 years to life in prison. Sentencing is set for January 23, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. in Department 40 of the Sacramento Superior Court.

**CASE: Joseph Francis Corey (10/30/14)**

**PROSECUTOR: Deputy District Attorney William Satchell, Homicide Unit**

District Attorney Jan Scully announced today that Joseph Francis Corey was convicted by jury of the first-degree murder of Sacramento County Animal Control Officer Roy Marcum. The jury also found true that Corey used a firearm. In addition, the jury found true two special circumstances, that the murder was committed against an appointed official and lying in wait.

On November 27, 2012, Corey was evicted from his residence in Galt after foreclosure. The next day, Officer Marcum responded to the residence at the request of bank representatives to retrieve several dogs and cats left by Corey. Unbeknownst to Officer Marcum, Corey had snuck back into the residence and barricaded the door from the inside. When Officer Marcum approached the residence, Corey shot Officer Marcum with a high-powered hunting rifle through the front door.

Corey faces a sentence of life without the possibility of parole. Sentencing is set for December 12, 2014 in Department 10 before the Honorable Greta Curtis Fall.

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## Rancho Cordova Staff Member Wins Top Statewide Code Enforcement Award

**RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG)** - Kerry Simpson, Neighborhood Services Manager for the City of Rancho Cordova, has been awarded the prestigious John Lowe Award of Excellence by the California Association of Code Enforcement Officers (CACEO). The award recognizes individuals who have made long-term, significant contributions to the field of Code Enforcement and have demonstrated a clear and resounding commitment to the goals and values of the association.

The job of a code enforcement officer is an important part of the effort to provide a safe and healthy environment for the public. They deal with such issues as zoning violation and public safety and health issues that involve substandard housing, trash disposal, and other general quality of life issues.

Simpson started the City's Code Enforcement Division when she joined City staff in 2006. During her tenure, she has implemented innovative ways to deal with issues specific to Rancho Cordova. One of her programs, Blight Busters, was a case study at the annual Alliance for Innovation Conference. After touring the low income housing that was established after Mather Air Force Base closed, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) personnel recommended Rancho Cordova's program as a model for other cities and counties that use Community Development Block Grants for rental



**Kerry Simpson (center), who manages Rancho Cordova's Neighborhood Services Division, is congratulated by Mayor Dan Skoglund (left) and Curt Haven, the City's Economic Development Director. Simpson was given a top award at the recent California Association of Code Enforcement Officers Annual Conference in Monterey.**

housing programs. Another of Simpson project was implementing the City's rental housing inspection and landlord training program in collaboration with the Sacramento Rental Housing Association. Because of the program, 26 large apartment complexes have been forced into receivership, sold, rehabbed, or demolished. In addition, Simpson manages the City's Animal Service Division.

Beyond her City duties, Simpson has been called on to testify in front of the California Senate and Assembly about several bills regarding code enforcement.

"We are proud and thankful for Kerry

and the Code Enforcement team. Our Code Enforcement Division not only provides outstanding services to raise the quality of life in Rancho Cordova but it has been noticed and emulated by other communities," said Rancho Cordova Mayor Dan Skoglund, who nominated Simpson for the award.

In a letter to the Mayor, Pete Roque, a CACEO Los Angeles County Director, wrote, "In the last few years, many cities had never heard of Rancho Cordova - now your city has become a code enforcement model for cities throughout the State of California."

Source: City of Rancho Cordova ★

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# LOCAL SPORTS

## Lancers Lose Tough in SVC Finale

## Cordova Soccer Falls in Playoff Opener



Cordova receiver Jeremiah Russell makes a reception against the Rosemont Wolverines defense. Photo by Rick Sloan

By Mike Bush

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Defense was the name of the game in the Sierra Valley Conference finale between the Cordova and Rosemont football teams on November 7th. In the first half, the visiting Lancers scored a touchdown off a fumble. Then, in the second half, it was the Wolverines who scored.

A safety proved to be the difference in the game, as Cordova

fell by a 10-8 score. The loss eliminated the Lancers (1-4 in the Sierra Valley Conference, 6-4 overall) from qualifying for an at-large Sac-Joaquin Section Division III playoff berth. A minimum of two conference wins is needed to be considered. "They knew what was at stake," said Cordova head coach Vance Mueller, "and they were trying to get into the playoffs."

Lancer defensive end Vincent Spikes scored the lone

touchdown when the Wolverines quarterback fumbled the ball inside Rosemont's 10 yard line. That allowed the 6-foot-1, 210-pound defensive end to pick up the ball and go into the end zone. Cordova's 2-point conversion was good for an 8-0 lead. "The kids played great," Mueller said. "It was just a hard-fought defensive battle. Neither offense could get in sync."

Cordova had a chance to add another touchdown to its side of

the scoreboard in the first half, but a pass thrown to a Lancer receiver went through his hands while in the end zone.

Rosemont scored its points in the second half. One of its scores was on a safety that proved to be the difference. "I think that definitely gave them some confidence," said Mueller of the Wolverines' score on the safety. "When we got the ball back, we drove right down the field."

Cordova moved the ball into the Wolverines' 10 yard line, but two penalties called against the Lancers pushed the ball back past the 30. Cordova lost the ball on a turnover, and Rosemont was able to eat up the final three minutes of the game for the victory.

Lancer lineman Azat Kudbalyan led the team in tackles with 11. Kurtis Simmons followed with nine, Matthew Giles and Jordan Richard had eight each, Carlos Cuevas had seven, Brandon Buck had six, and Amos Loto had five. Giles also had an interception in the game.

In the junior varsity game, Cordova and Rosemont ended their season with a 14-14 tie. The JV Lancers concluded their season with a 4-5-1 overall record, including a 1-3-1 mark in the SVC. ★



Cordova midfielder Bernardo Valdez boots the ball in the Lancers' Sierra Valley Conference home game recently. The Lancers finished the season with a 14-6-2 record. Photo by Rae Lynn Flippo

By Mike Bush

**AMERICAN CANYON, CA (MPG)** - In its CIF Sac-Joaquin Section Division III playoff road game on November 4th, the Cordova High School boys' soccer team and host American Canyon battled to a scoreless game after two halves. Then the Lancers and Wolves went to the first overtime period, and still no score.

But in the second overtime frame, American Canyon scored the lone goal to post a 1-0 win. The Lancers, who were the No. 9 seed, ended their season 14-6-2; that included a third place finish in the Sierra Valley Conference. "Early on, I felt like both teams felt the pressure of being in a playoff game and played a little tentative," said Cordova head coach Eric McCahon. "We seemed to start to find our rhythm first and created two quality chances about mid-way in the first half."

But the Lancers missed both

shots in the first half. In the second half, both Cordova and American Canyon, which was the No. 8 seed, were unable to put the ball into the net.

"In (overtime), both teams played with more of a sense of urgency, trying to avoid going to penalty kicks," McCahon said.

McCahon spoke to his team a day after the game. "I wanted to stress to them that even though this was a disappointing way to end (the season), it shouldn't cast a huge shadow over an amazing season. The boys played well all season long."

Seniors on the Lancers' roster are Juan Ramirez, Mitchell Lavielle, Tim Romanyuk, Jose Trejo, Alexis Gio Vazques, Victor Flores, and Vladyslav Guzevaty.

McCahon is looking forward to the 2015 season. "There are a lot young players who gained very valuable experience," McCahon said. "They will provide a great foundation moving forward." ★

## END of the BENCH

by Gerry Scholl

### Don't Drop the Ball, Losers

It is just over fifty years since the No.-1 gridiron folly of all time occurred, and every football fan worth his Gatorade knows what it is and is well aware of the legacy of "Wrong Way Marshall."

The incident at Kezar Stadium in San Francisco was indelibly imprinted in the minds of 49ers fans by one of the most recognizable calls of Hall of Fame broadcaster Lon Simmons' career...

Forty Niner Billy Kilmer caught a short pass and fighting for extra yardage he "loses the football! It's picked up by Jim Marshall, who's running the wrong way! Marshall is running the wrong way and he's running it into the end zone the wrong way! He thinks he's scored a touchdown! He's scored a safety!"

Marshall, the great Hall of Fame-caliber defensive end and member of the fabled Minnesota Vikings' "Purple People Eaters," who went on to play 20 years in the NFL and Kilmer both made it into the HOF for the wrong reason — for that one incredible moment. To this day, Marshall doesn't care to talk about the play, understandably, but admits he's still trying to forget it. Bad enough that he's remembered most for running 66 yards the wrong way and scoring two points for the 49ers with his mistake, but it would have been much worse had not the Vikings won the game, 27-22.

One huge reason why that play is so unique is that when someone drops the ball, as Kilmer did, things usually don't work out so well for the fumbler.

How many times while watching a game and the football comes free have you mimicked the classic call of that old legendary college football television announcer Keith Jackson with his stylish "Fumbllllllle!" — expecting the worst for the team that coughed it up?

The worst happened to one college football powerhouse and helped another Saturday, and the previous week the very, very worst happened at the University of Mississippi.

With 1:30 left to play, Mississippi

wide receiver and star player Laquon Treadwell reached the goal line with what appeared to be a probable game-winning touchdown when he was brought down by an ankle-breaking tackle, causing a fumble recovered in the end zone by Auburn. The touchdown call was overturned by replay revue. Mississippi lost the TD, lost the game, lost their best player and lost their chances for a playoff berth in heart-stopping fashion all on one play.

Auburn, the 2010 national champion that was ranked No. 3 going into this past weekend, fumbled away its chances for another title in a 41-38 upset loss to Texas A&M. The Tigers, 7-2, twice were closing in toward go-ahead scores in the final minutes, but fumbled the ball away at the Aggies' 2-yard line and again at their 28.

Oregon (9-1) moved ahead of Auburn in the playoff picture with a little unexpected assistance in its Pac 12 showdown with then No. 20 Utah (6-3), that played the role of the accommodating host. The Utes were inches away from taking a 14-0 lead as Kaelin Clay was coasting into the end zone when he prematurely dropped the ball before crossing the goal line, anticipating his celebratory moments. While the home team and crowd went crazy, Oregon's Joe Walker picked up the ball and raced 100 yards the right way for a Ducks' score. The stunned Utes never recovered in a 51-27 loss.

That one stirred up memories of others. DeSean Jackson, the former Cal star, while with the Philadelphia Eagles twice went into celebration-mode a little early — once performing a forward flip into the end zone only to have the ball touch the ground and come loose a little too soon, and again when nonchalantly releasing the ball slightly before crossing the goal line and going into his prima donna act.

Another that comes to mind is the Leon Lett knucklehead play in Super Bowl XXVI. The Dallas Cowboys' defensive lineman recovered a fumble and was cruising along for a potential score late in a blowout victory over the Buffalo Bills when he decided to take a peak at himself on the

Jumbotron scoreboard, allowing the Bills' Don Bebee to catch him and knock the ball away. No Super Bowl touchdown for Leon. What a loser.

It wasn't fumbles, but drops, that almost doomed the Forty Niners' season Sunday in New Orleans. They managed to survive another sub-par offensive showing to pull out a 27-24 overtime victory to stay alive in the playoff hunt at 5-4.

The 49ers' receivers had problems completing catches throughout the day, leading to mediocre passing statistics for quarterback Colin Kaepernick of 14 for 32, 210 yards. The usually sure-handed Anquan Boldin did have six catches for 95 yards, but would have had a much bigger day if not for a number of drops.

After the Saints grabbed the lead, 24-21, with just 1:52 to play in regulation, both Boldin and Michael Crabtree had drops on the 49ers' ensuing possession, leaving San Francisco in desperate straits with a fourth-down-and-ten situation deep in its own territory. The teams' ultimate playoffs hopes seemed to hinge on one last wing and a prayer. Kaepernick scrambled around for a day and a half in the backfield before winging a pass 51 yards to Crabtree and the prayer was answered. The 49ers were able to kick the tying field goal to go to overtime.

And, wouldn't you know it, it was a fumble that was the deciding play in the end. Avenging a controversial roughing-the-passer penalty that negated his fumble recovery and hit on Saints QB Drew Brees that set the stage for a Saints' victory over the 49ers last season, linebacker Ahmad Brooks did it again — he sacked Brees and forced a fumble recovered by 49ers' rookie LB Chris Borland, setting up the game-winning, 35-yard field goal.

By the way, was that Wilbur Wood, Charlie Hough, Tim Wakefield or R. A. Dickey impersonating 49ers place-kicker Phil Dawson — kicking that fluttering knuckle ball through the uprights for the win? ★

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WEDNESDAY

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ATHLON SPORTS

INSIDESATURDAY

A WEEKLY SPIN AROUND COLLEGE FOOTBALL

BEST OF THE WEST

Alabama hosts No. 1 Mississippi State

MISSISSIPPI STATE AT ALABAMA

These neighboring schools have played 97 times since their first meeting in 1896. Never has so much been at stake. Mississippi State is undefeated and ranked No. 1 in the nation. Alabama is 8-1 overall and 5-1 in the SEC. The winner will seize control of the SEC West race (though both teams still have significant challenges ahead) and be well-situated for a spot in the College Football Playoff. Alabama probably cannot afford a loss; the Tide simply don't have enough quality wins (even with a potential win against Auburn) to make the four-team field with two defeats. So this game is obviously vital for Nick Saban's club. Mississippi State is in better shape, but the Bulldogs have a difficult closing slate, with trips to Alabama and Ole Miss among their final three games. MSU has been outstanding on offense all season but has been mediocre (at best) defensively, allowing 548 yards to UAB, 526 to Texas A&M and 504 to Kentucky. And it will be these deficiencies on defense that will knock Mississippi State from the ranks of the unbeaten. *Alabama by 6*

FLORIDA STATE AT MIAMI (FLA.)

This once-great rivalry has failed to deliver much drama over the past decade, due in large part to Miami's inability to field a championship-caliber team. The Hurricanes joined the ACC in 2004 but have yet to play in the ACC Championship Game. Some are saying this is Miami's best team in years, but it's hard to get overly excited about a team that has double-digit losses to Louisville, Nebraska and Georgia Tech. Miami has some elite talent — most notably tailback Duke Johnson — but has failed to play well consistently at any point in the Al Golden era. Simply put, it's tough to trust this program. Florida State remains undefeated, though the Seminoles haven't exactly played up to their potential. So far, it hasn't really mattered — and it might not matter until the Seminoles reach the College Football Playoff. *Florida State by 7*



Mitch Light  
Athlon Sports  
Executive Editor  
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AUBURN AT GEORGIA

Certain weeks, Georgia looks like a top-five team in the country. Other weeks, the Bulldogs look quite average. Last Saturday was one of the good weeks. Georgia jumped out to a 21-0 lead at Kentucky and cruised to an impressive 63-31 victory. True freshman Nick Chubb was once again brilliant, rushing for 170 yards on only 13 carries — his fourth straight game with at least 140 yards. Chubb will be joined in the backfield this week by Todd Gurley, who was a Heisman Trophy favorite before being slapped with a four-game suspension. Gurley's return will no doubt help, but it's not like the running game was an area of weakness while he was out. Auburn must regroup after a shocking loss at home to Texas A&M. The Tigers battled from behind all game and had two opportunities to take the lead in the final minutes but fumbled twice in A&M territory. Many have assumed that loss eliminated Auburn from the Playoff picture, but the Tigers, if they win out, would have road wins at Kansas State, Ole Miss, Georgia and Alabama, plus a win at home vs. LSU. That would be by far the most impressive résumé for a two-loss team. *Auburn by 3*

NEBRASKA AT WISCONSIN

The Big Ten's East Division has garnered far more attention this year, but you can make a case that the West, while not as strong at the top, has more overall depth. With all due respect to Minnesota, the two best teams in the division meet this Saturday in Wisconsin. Nebraska is very quietly 8-1 overall, with its only defeat by five



There will be star power all over the field when safety Landon Collins and the Alabama defense host Heisman candidate Dak Prescott and Mississippi State.

points at Michigan State. That sounds impressive until you look at the Huskers' schedule. Outside of a 10-point win at home over Miami, there is nothing remotely close to a quality win on the résumé. Wisconsin is in a similar predicament. The Badgers have a solid record (7-2) but lost to the only top-25 team on their schedule (LSU in Week 1). They have a dominating 52-7 win over a solid Maryland team to counter a troubling loss to Northwestern. The key will be on defense; which team can do a better job slowing down the opponent's elite running back — Melvin Gordon from Wisconsin and Ameer Abdullah from Nebraska. *Wisconsin by 7*

OHIO STATE AT MINNESOTA

Minnesota, tied atop the Big Ten West with Nebraska and Wisconsin, is one of the surprise teams in college football. Two things, however, are preventing the Gophers from earning a ton of national respect: They lost to Illinois, one of the worst Power 5 teams in the country, three weeks ago, and they still have yet to play their three most difficult games — vs. Ohio State and at Nebraska and Wisconsin. A 7-2 record could very quickly turn to 7-5. Ohio State is fresh off a 49-37 win at Michigan State, a game that Urban Meyer called the Buckeyes' best performance since his arrival in 2012. Ohio State rolled up 568 yards of offense behind yet another stellar performance from J.T. Barrett. The redshirt freshman threw for 300 yards with three touchdowns and no interceptions and added 86 yards and two scores on the ground. Minnesota will have to play its very best to have a chance. *Ohio State by 17*

- » BUCKEYES BACK IN TITLE MIX
- » STRONG PERFORMANCE FROM TEXAS
- » IRISH LAY AN EGG IN THE DESERT
- » FRESHMAN SHINES FOR TEXAS A&M

HEISMAN WATCH

1. **Marcus Mariota, QB, Oregon** Mariota threw for 239 yards, rushed for 114 and accounted for four touchdowns in the Ducks' 51-27 win at Utah. It was his first 100-yard rushing game of the season.
2. **Dak Prescott, QB Mississippi State** Prescott threw for 206 yards and rushed for 54 as Mississippi State rolled past UT Martin 45-16 in a tuneup for Saturday's epic clash at Alabama.
3. **Trevone Boykin, QB, TCU** Boykin was terrific in the Frogs' pivotal 41-20 win over Kansas State, throwing for 219 yards and a touchdown and rushing for 123 yards and three TDs.



4. **Duke Johnson, RB, Miami** Johnson and the Hurricanes had a week off to prepare for Saturday's showdown against Florida State.
5. **Amari Cooper, WR, Alabama** Cooper caught eight passes for 83 yards and scored Alabama's lone offensive touchdown in the Tide's thrilling 20-13 overtime win at LSU.

WEEKEND ON TAP: 30 KEY GAMES

- East Carolina at Cincinnati (Thu)
- California at USC (Thu)
- Mississippi State at Alabama
- Washington at Arizona
- LSU at Arkansas
- San Diego State at Boise State
- UNLV at BYU
- Virginia Tech at Duke
- South Carolina at Florida
- Auburn at Georgia
- Clemson at Georgia Tech
- Iowa at Illinois
- TCU at Kansas
- Michigan State at Maryland
- Florida State at Miami (Fla.)
- Ohio State at Minnesota
- Georgia Southern at Navy
- Wake Forest at NC State
- Pittsburgh at North Carolina
- Northwestern at Notre Dame
- Texas at Oklahoma State
- Arizona State at Oregon State
- Temple at Penn State
- Indiana at Rutgers
- Utah at Stanford
- Kentucky at Tennessee
- Missouri at Texas A&M
- Oklahoma at Texas Tech
- Memphis at Tulane
- Nebraska at Wisconsin

PRIME TIME PLAYERS

Baylor's **Corey Coleman** has receiving touchdowns in all six games he's played this season, but he saved his best performance for the biggest stage. Coleman caught 15 passes — the most ever by an Oklahoma opponent — for 224 yards and a touchdown, and he added a rushing score as Baylor dominated OU 48-14 to keep its national title hopes alive. ... Clearly, Mike Leach's system produces numbers no matter who's running it. Making his first career start as a redshirt freshman following an injury to Connor Halliday, **Luke Falk** completed 44-of-61 passes for 471 yards and five touchdowns, as the Cougars snapped a four-game losing streak with a 39-32 upset of Oregon State in Corvallis. ... **Trevone Boykin** accounted for 342 yards and four touchdowns

in TCU's decisive 41-20 win over Kansas State, the Horned Frogs' first-ever home game matching top-10 teams. ... **Melvin Gordon** shined once again for Wisconsin, rushing for 205 yards and one touchdown in the Badgers' 34-16 win at Purdue. Gordon has topped the 100-yard mark in all but one game this season. ... Making his first start on the road, Texas A&M quarterback **Kyle Allen**, a true freshman, threw for 277 yards and four touchdowns to lead the Aggies to an improbable 41-38 win at Auburn. ... UCLA quarterback **Brett Hundley** completed 29-of-36 passes for 302 yards and accounted for four touchdowns (two passing, two rushing) as the Bruins picked up an impressive 44-30 win at Washington. ... Texas defensive end **Cedric Reed** was dominant in the Longhorns' 33-16 win over West Virginia, recording 12 tackles and three sacks.

J.T. Barrett, QB  
Ohio State

What was thought to be a season-crushing injury to Braxton Miller is now a distant memory thanks to the scintillating play of Barrett. The redshirt freshman was spectacular in a tough road environment, completing 16-of-26 passes for 300 yards and three touchdowns and rushing for 86 yards and another two scores in Ohio State's unlikely 49-37 win at Michigan State. It was the third time Barrett has thrown for at least 300 yards in a game and the sixth time he's rushed for at least 70.



Collins: Athlon Sports; Boykin: Chris Covatta; Barrett: Fogel

STOCK REPORT

▲ Credit the Texas Longhorns for not quitting and for trying to salvage something out of Charlie Strong's first season in Austin. Strong got the biggest win of his young Texas career, a 33-16 upset of West Virginia that led to some celebratory locker room crowd-surfing for Strong among his jubilant players.

▼ Notre Dame had been getting a lot of mileage out of its last-second loss at Florida State. But the Irish revealed themselves to be pretenders on the national stage with their ill-fated trip to Tempe, where they coughed up five turnovers in a 55-31 loss to Arizona State.

▲ Memphis is bowl-eligible in Justin Fuente's second season after rallying to beat Temple 16-13 on Friday night. The Tigers, who won only one league game in 2013, are in first place in the AAC with a 4-1 record. Memphis closes the season with a trip to Tulane and home dates against South Florida and UConn.

▼ Iowa State has carved out a well-deserved reputation as a giant killer in the Big 12 under Paul Rhoads' watch, but the Cyclones played the role of upset victims on Saturday. Kansas blasted the Clones, 34-14, in Lawrence for just its second Big 12 win in the past four seasons.

ATHLON SPORTS TOP 25

1. Mississippi State (9-0)
2. Florida State (9-0)
3. TCU (8-1)
4. Oregon (9-1)
5. Alabama (8-1)
6. Baylor (8-1)
7. Arizona State (8-1)
8. Ohio State (8-1)
9. Auburn (7-2)
10. Ole Miss (8-2)
11. Michigan State (7-2)
12. Nebraska (8-1)
13. Georgia (7-2)
14. UCLA (8-2)
15. Kansas State (7-2)
16. Arizona (7-2)
17. Clemson (7-2)
18. LSU (7-3)
19. Notre Dame (7-2)
20. Duke (8-1)
21. Wisconsin (7-2)
22. Minnesota (7-2)
23. Texas A&M (7-3)
24. Georgia Tech (8-2)
25. Utah (6-3)



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