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Grapevine  
**Independent**

VOLUME 45 • ISSUE 51 PROUDLY SERVING RANCHO CORDOVA & SACRAMENTO COUNTY DECEMBER 20, 2013

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**Oh, What a Christmas Tree!**

By Shelly Blanchard

**RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG)** - They came, they danced, they cheered Sunday night as the 14th Annual Cordova Community Christmas Tree came to life amid fireworks and snow.

The Cordova Community Council and supporting sponsors returned over the Thanksgiving holiday weekend with "Let it Snow," an evening of free holiday entertainment and activities — and a series of snowy "blizzards."

The perfect way to shake off the turkey hangover, the traditional tree lighting event was complete with free hay rides, free steam train rides, free kid's activities, free music, treats and more.

The highlight of the event came at the moment the giant tree was lit. Fireworks chased up the tree and exploded off the top as the tree came to life, lit by more than 15,000 twinkling white and colored lights. The crowd roared.

Merry-makers brought toys to "Stuff the Squad Car" to benefit Christmas in Cordova, a collaborative holiday outreach program for needy Rancho Cordova families.

A brigade of food trucks served up treats, and children rollicked down a giant slide and inside a human-sized snow globe. It was "all aboard" as the Live Steamers Railroad shuttled event-goers around the 30 foot tree — all part of the enduring Christmas Tree Lighting event.

On stage, award-winning children's magician Trevor Wyatt conjured up Christmas magic as emcee, with the Rancho Cordova River City Concert Band filling the air with music. Dancers, singers, a Ukrainian Bandura Ensemble performance, plus Santa and the big countdown to

**See: They Came, They Danced**  
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A brigade of food trucks served up treats, and children rollicked down a giant slide and inside a human-sized snow globe. It was "all aboard" as the Live Steamers Railroad shuttled event-goers around the 30 foot tree — all part of the enduring Christmas Tree Lighting event. Photo courtesy of Sandcastle Images.

**Commentary**  
By Shelly Blanchard

When I was growing up in snowy Northern Michigan, my hometown dressed up for Christmas.

A harbor town nestled along the shores of icy Lake Superior, the unique geography spawned regular arrivals of something called "lake effect snow," so a White Christmas was never in doubt. On super-cold nights, I would snuggle under the covers, hearing a foghorn in the distance, knowing that meant sugar snow was piling up outside my window. Would tomorrow be a snow day? One could always hope!

At the foot of Front Street, each year a giant evergreen would sprout from the corner of a parking lot. It was covered in big, fat colored lights, with a star on top. By the second or third day, this tree would be wearing a coat of white, and the lights would soften and somehow look bigger glowing under the snow. And at the appointed hour, on the appointed day, my parents would herd all five of the sisters and brother that made up my family into the station wagon to look at it. Thus, Christmas had begun.

I always think of this when we engage in the annual ritual that is the Cordova Community Christmas Tree. And I wonder

to myself: will some child be thinking of what they see 50 years from now, the way I do today?

If you were there as we lit our tree on a perfect Sunday night after Thanksgiving, you were not alone. There were thousands of people and thousands of lights — on a 100-foot Ferris wheel, on a 30-foot tree and in the eyes of all. Fireworks exploded from the tree as it was lit, and the crowd of thousands broke into cheers. It even snowed — not the real deal of my childhood -- but the next best thing, because Christmas is full of enough magic to turn even

**See: Christmas Commentary**  
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**Tax Reprieve Brings Holiday Cheer**

By George Runner

Thousands of struggling Californians who short sold their homes to avoid foreclosure can rest easier this holiday season knowing they won't be hit with huge income tax bills.

The threat was real. A California law protecting homeowners from paying taxes on forgiven debt associated with a short sale expired at the end of 2012, and legislative efforts to extend it failed. Furthermore, a federal law providing the same protections expires at the end of this year.

Nearly everyone believed the result would be that debt forgiven in a short sale would be viewed as taxable income. A homeowner who short sold a home for \$300,000 but owed \$450,000 would be forced to pay taxes on \$150,000 of forgiven debt, known in the tax world as "cancellation of debt income." It wouldn't matter that the homeowner didn't receive those dollars—he or she would still owe the tax.

According to the Franchise Tax Board, the cumulative tax hit for Californians would have surpassed \$50 million at the state level alone. These tax bills would have hammered thousands who have already suffered the most during the recent economic downturn. Likely some would have been forced into bankruptcy.

Rather than simply mail in the keys when forced to move, these homeowners had taken the extra and often difficult step of negotiating a short sale with their lender. Little did they know they could be punished for doing so.

Those who became aware of the potential tax consequences have been worried sick. One homeowner told me she has literally lost sleep trying to figure out how she could possibly

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**SMUD Approves 2014 Budget**

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - The Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) Board of Directors has approved a \$1.4 billion budget. The 2014 budget provides funding for all programs, projects and initiatives needed to meet the strategic targets set by the Board of Directors. The budget reflects a balanced approach that will keep SMUD on track to meet its long-term goals, while keeping a close eye on spending and continuing to improve operating efficiencies that provide value for customers. As the region starts to come out of the prolonged slow-growth economy, SMUD starts 2014 with a strong cash balance. When combined with cash generated from operations, SMUD expects to be able to cover the budget expenditures, including capital projects, without issuing new debt.

The 2014 budget anticipates electricity sales of \$1.3 billion, or an increase of about 3 percent over 2013. While the customer base is growing, total kilowatt-

hour usage is expected to remain flat as energy efficiency measures and new solar installations reduce average electricity consumption per customer.

The commodities portion of the budget—the cost of natural gas to fuel power plants, wholesale power purchases and transmission — is \$506.8 million for next year, about half of the total operations and maintenance budget and a slight decline from 2013.

The capital budget, which covers additions and improvements to buildings, property and equipment, is \$227.5 million, up from \$180 million in 2013. The portion of the 2014 budget earmarked for the low-income Energy Assistance Program Rate is \$46.7 million, an increase of 4 percent over 2013.

Major projects for 2014 will include preparations for renovating the SMUD headquarters building, geotechnical work to help evaluate a proposed 400-megawatt (MW) addition to the SMUD hydroelectric

system and planning for the relocation of two major substations. SMUD will be working with the city of Sacramento and the owners of the Sacramento Kings on development of the downtown entertainment and sports center, a modern NBA venue that would seat 17,000 and is expected to stimulate associated development. To address reliability the budget includes funds for:

- Enhancing SMUD's ongoing underground cable replacement program.
- Developing transmission interconnection alternatives to increase load-serving capability, access renewable energy, provide voltage support, and support long-term carbon emission reduction.
- Developing a new site for new flexible thermal generation and conducting feasibility studies for a compressed air energy storage project, both of which can help support more wind and solar generation.
- Starting environmental work for a Collinsville property wind farm

development of approximately 50 MW.

- Transferring all remaining low-level nuclear waste from Rancho Seco to an approved site in Texas.

For customers, the budget includes a new energy efficiency program for small and medium business customers; driving customer transformation to LED lighting; constructing SMUD-owned fast-charging stations for electric vehicles; and presenting a more consistent online customer experience across all platforms and devices (e.g., smartphones and tablets).

Additionally, SMUD will implement the Customer Experience Excellence initiative, which will:

- Identify new business opportunities for SMUD's retail strategy.
- Proactively provide information customers want using the channels they prefer.

Continued on Page 5

# Dogs and Diamonds



By Gold River Resident Jodie Barringer Myers

But seasons change, of course.

In the past year, I've learned of at least eight dogs that have passed away, leaving their humans, and the friends of their humans, very, very sad. Even though each of our canine friends led happy, active and very long lives, we are left to mourn. Of course. Because they were an integral, important, fun and adorable part of our family, our 'hood, our community, our lives.

As our beloved pets are now either arthritic, incontinent or moving on to Pup Perpetuity, our children are moving out and into their own independent, self-governing realities. Our once kid/laughter/bark-filled homes have given way to a more subdued, quieter (and cleaner!) home. The cuteness factor, what with all that tail-wagging, has decreased tenfold. The silence is now deafening, as the sibling scream-a-thons have ceased to exist.

But wa-, wai-, wait! Let's not throw ourselves a pity party just yet. Because there's a different and equally as happy and fun kind of season emerging.

Out of the eight heartbreaking dog stories I've shared, I have at least 10 heartwarming what I'll call diamond stories. A lot of the aforementioned kids - and friends of those kids - are changing their Facebook status from "In a Relationship" to "Engaged" faster than you can say "Believe me, if you like your insurance plan, you can keep

your insurance plan" five times fast.

Conversations with my daughters' besties have morphed from "What's your puppy's name?" to "Who are you going to Homecoming with?" to "Where are you going to college?" to, now, "Congratulations! Have you set the date?"

Finding "the one," guys getting down on bended knee, gals' left-hand ring fingers being adorned with a flawless diamond, saying Yes to the Dress: I see a lot of fat-walleted jewelers and happy bridal dress designers around these days.

From holey (dog-chewed) socks to holy matrimony. Circa 1999: "How to Potty Train Your Puppy." 2013: "How to Plan the Perfect Wedding." No more "Goin' to the bark park." Now it's "Goin' to the chapel." And, blissfully, they're "gonna get married."

'Tis the season of our lives. And that's the way it should be.

Yes, the diamonds are shining and the champagne is flowing - all in celebration of pending nuptials, most probably a future family, and most definitely a sweet dog to fill a happy home.

Dogs. Diamonds. Dogs to diamonds.

Here's to the circle of life.

Cheers to the change of seasons.

Jodie Barringer Myers writes a blog, [cottagecheeseandcrepepaper.com](http://cottagecheeseandcrepepaper.com), and can be reached at [jbthinmint@hotmail.com](mailto:jbthinmint@hotmail.com).

# Tax Reprieve Brings Holiday Cheer

Continued from page 1

afford to pay.

After the legislative solution failed, I sent a letter to the Franchise Tax Board's Chief Counsel requesting a legal opinion on this matter. Perhaps there was another pathway to protect taxpayers.

Initially, FTB staff indicated they would need guidance from the IRS before providing an answer. That guidance arrived in an IRS letter to Senator Barbara Boxer. The IRS said that taxpayers would not be on the hook for income tax from cancelled debts related to short sales. This will be significant for federal purposes following the expiration of the Mortgage Forgiveness Debt Relief Act at the end of this year.

Just this month FTB formally responded to my letter confirming that it will follow the lead of the Internal Revenue Service and not impose a tax penalty on Californians who have sold their home via a short sale. In her response, FTB Chief Counsel Jozel Brunett stated: "Since California conforms to the relevant portions of the federal tax law governing the forgiveness

of nonrecourse and recourse indebtedness, California would follow the federal treatment for the [California Code of Civil Procedure] section 580e transactions."

This is welcome news for Californians who have had to short sell their homes this year. We learned last month they wouldn't face a federal tax penalty in the future, and now we know they won't face a current or future state tax hit either.

The FTB's announcement that it will conform with the IRS ensures continued protection for most taxpayers without the need for additional legislation. That is truly cause for celebration.

Among those celebrating is California Association of Realtors President Kevin Brown, who issued this statement: "We would like to thank Sen. Boxer and BOE member Runner for their leadership in obtaining this guidance from the IRS and FTB. Distressed California homeowners can now avoid foreclosure or bankruptcy and can opt for a short sale instead, without incurring federal and state tax liability, even after the Mortgage Forgiveness Debt Relief Act of 2007 expires at the

end of this year."

As an elected taxpayer advocate, it's my duty to help taxpayers each and every day. My job is all the more enjoyable when I'm able to report good news.

One constituent responded by writing: "Thank you! You've saved our family from a burdensome tax that was looming over our heads as we approached the end of the year. I'm sure there are many families that will benefit from this and will be able to get back on their feet sooner because of this determination."

It's not every day Californians receive welcome news from tax agencies. When it happens it's worth noting and applauding, especially when it helps thousands of Californians who now have one less worry this holiday season.

George Runner represents more than nine million Californians as a taxpayer advocate and elected member of the State Board of Equalization. For more information, visit [boe.ca.gov/Runner](http://boe.ca.gov/Runner).

Do you remember back about fifteen years ago, when a lot of us had kids that were in grade school, when we were frantically helping them night and day (unbeknownst to their fourth grade teacher, of course) with their California mission project? And remember when, as parents, we gritted our collective teeth and let them pick out the color of their redone big girl/boy bedroom (in our case, from a soft blush pink to a garish, electric, neon Pippin Apple Green)?

And remember when seemingly every family on the street was bringing home a new puppy, when all of the mom talk was now about Iams and Parvo shots, when we were giving out "newlydog" gifts to every new pup up on the block on a regular basis? Do you remember that season in our lives?



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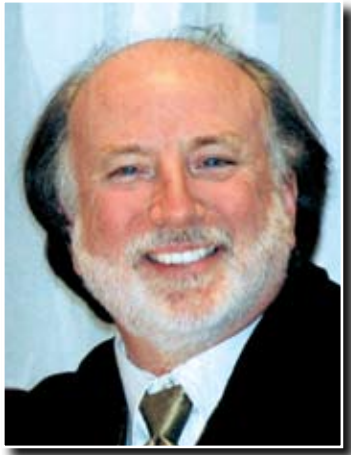
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# The Power of the Mother's Tea



By Kelly Davenport

Need a hug? Craving a friendly nurturing smile? Or do you simply need a loving friend to serve you a cup of tea? If so, you are not alone! Prepare for revitalization fueled by warmth and nurturing from your new special girl friends at a monthly mother's tea.

There are moments in *the day in the life of fulfilling our family's needs* when we as mothers feel alone in it all. A phenomenon known as, *other mom's must do it better*, creeps in when we lack fellowship in our lives. In reality the highs and lows mixed with unforeseen challenges that bombard our daily motherly existence are commonly shared by most of us. By congregating over tea, coffee and yummy food with a willingness to share, cleanses the soul and recharges our batteries so we may continue giving joyously to our families.

Making new friends is more elusive these days as true friendships require time and energy to build the kind of relationships that support trust and vulnerability. A mother's tea group committed to monthly meet-ups gives busy mothers the opportunity to congregate in an emotionally safe and relaxed environment. Over time my personal experience has seen an exponential expansion in my friendship circle that is deeply gratifying as well as broadened

my network of helpful families I can trust my children to in times of need.

So what is the recipe for a successful mother's tea? I do wish I could take the credit on my group of loyal moms but I am by nature shy with a chronically cluttered house. I am not likely to host parties on a regular basis. In my case all the credit goes to two beautiful ladies who expanded on our grade school's tradition of an annual mother's tea introducing mothers to teachers for the upcoming year. It began simply. These two bubbly moms put together cute invites to meet-up for tea. They opened their homes, fed our tummies and our souls with love. We all seemed to be having such fun. It was easy to start conversing about the next tea before disbanding. And so it began.

The hugs and smiles, giggles

our monthly tea has strengthened their daily lives.

Of the many countless side effects a mother's tea has to offer, is an opportunity to learn more about our child's scholastic world from observing mom's who work in the classroom. We share ideas, concerns etcetera about our child's wellbeing. These insights are powerful parenting tools guaranteed to pay dividends in the long run.

So if you are shy like me but feel a mother's tea is just the remedy you seek, befriend the extroverted mom and whisper the notion of starting a tea. Let her take the credit while you engage in hero support. Offer to create invitations or host the first tea. Smart phones, email and social networking apps make future meet-ups a breeze. A small effort at this project's beginnings, will payback large



and laughter are plentiful. Tales of our children's antics (or our husbands, for that matter) fill the air. The energy sizzles as the high octane environment is instantly uplifting no matter how my day started. Our group prays for one another and I am always moved by how bravely these women handle challenge in their life. I feel our group of twenty moms melt in this setting of sisterly love with sighs of relief. More than one of us has confessed that

over time. Get ready to spice up your life...body, mind and soul, with a mother's tea! ★

*Kelly Davenport lives in Sacramento with her husband and two children. She is a part time instructor at Sacramento State University and is the author of a children's book "Do Hotdogs Grow on Trees." Available at Amazon.com or http://tinyurl.com/nmjnms*

# Christmas Commentary

Continued from page 1

a cloudless 50-degree California night into a snowstorm – if only for a few minutes.

It was far more humble when this Rancho Cordova tradition began 14 years ago. With the embers of cityhood barely smoldering, it was decided what this one-horse town needed was a Christmas tree. After all, what business did we have dreaming of self-governance if we could not figure out how to light a tree?

So it was that a tree was identified to become our first community tree. Because even in those days we liked to think big, the tallest tree visible from Coloma Road was selected. And the fact that it was in the front yard of St. John Vianney Church and the pastor allowed us to plug into some outlets there, it seemed to make sense. And so, the first great Christmas tree adventure began.

The Cordova Community Council passed the hat to buy some lights and the irrepressible Dave Roberts, who a few years later would go on to become our first mayor, was pressed into service. Somebody knew somebody at C.C. Myers, which loaned a boomlift to tame the 80-foot tree.

The job proved to be more of an undertaking than any had imagined. As yellow leaves sprinkled down from the trees, Dave and his band of merry-makers tried mightily to decorate the green monster. Dave, it turned

out, was better at inspiring voters than he was at decorating trees, at one point resorting to tying the end of a string of lights to a rock, throwing it skyward and hoping for the best. This process was repeated numerous times until he declared the job was done, and exhausted, everyone cheered.

The next day was tree lighting day and by some miracle enough extension cords had been plugged into other extension cords, which were plugged into still more extension cords, and the big moment arrived. A gathering of no more than 50 people seemed like thousands. The St. John Vianney choir sang a few songs and Fr. Moroney blessed our grand tree, and somebody was appointed to throw the switch.

On went the lights and immediately the folly of the rock-throwing method of tree decoration was evident. The bottom half of our tree had lights, for sure. But the top? Well, let's just say Dave was probably a better linebacker than quarterback. It looked ridiculous. We loved it.

As we laughed ourselves silly and pounded Dave on the back, I recall somebody saying, "we will get better at this with practice." Like a lot of things we do in our city, this proved to be true.

We figured out that even putting up a big community Christmas Tree required teamwork. Over the years we cajoled Sac Metro Fire to help. Old Boyd Johnson made a star for

the top one summer, and long discussions took place among Rancho Cordovans regarding strategies on how to get the lights more evenly distributed. By November of 2002, just a few weeks after voting ourselves to become a city, the tree was looking better, if not great. It poured the night we lit it, but nobody seemed to care. We still loved it.

The evolution of our Community Christmas Tree, now looking stately and polished in position at Village Green park, is a true reflection of how we have learned and grown as a community. We become more competent when we are working together, and on occasions when we pause to think about who we are and where we live, it's nice to celebrate as one.

Our Community Christmas Tree had most humble beginnings, just like the events that inspired it 2013 years ago. May it be a touchstone for your family like that tree on Front Street in Marquette, Michigan still is to me, spinning in the memory drum of my mind, reflected in the lights sparkling on the tree of my adopted home here.

As we move through the holiday season, sharing with each other, we remember with a laugh how our first tree was far from perfect. And yet, it was beautiful nonetheless because it was our very own; a community memory we worked and built together from nothing, right here in our town, Rancho Cordova. ★

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# SMUD Approves 2014 Budget

Continued from page 1

SMUD customers continue to pay significantly less for electricity than most Californians and as of January 2014, about 35 percent less than residential customers who are supplied by neighboring PG&E. As the nation's sixth

largest community-owned electric service provider, SMUD has been providing low-cost, reliable electricity for more than 67 years to Sacramento County (and a small portion of Placer County).

SMUD is a recognized industry leader and award winner for its innovative energy efficiency programs,

renewable power technologies, and for its sustainable solutions for a healthier environment. SMUD is the first large California utility to receive more than 20 percent of its energy from renewable resources. For more information, visit [smud.org](http://smud.org).  
Source: SMUD Newsroom

## Railroad Museum to Exhibit

# California State Parks, 150 Years

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - California State Parks and the California State Railroad Museum are proud to debut an all-new exhibit titled "California State Parks, 150 Years: A Gift from the People, to the People" on Saturday, December 21, 2013. Timed to coincide with the 150th anniversary of California State Parks in 2014, the exhibit will feature compelling and diverse historic images of parks along with a variety of cultural and natural history objects of importance to State Parks.

The 150th anniversary exhibit will be located in the front lobby of the Railroad Museum - North America's most popular railroad museum - and will offer an opportunity for visitors to gain a

greater appreciation for historic milestones and the important role State Parks plays in California's history and identity. In fact, on June 30, 1864, and in the midst of the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Yosemite Grant Act, protecting Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove and ceding them to the State of California as the nation's first State Park. While Yosemite is now a National Park, it did mark the beginning of the State Parks movement. The landmark act - the first instance of park land being set aside specifically for preservation and public use by action of the federal government - created a legacy for California and the nation, and the entire world.

Through numerous name changes the Department of Parks and Recreation has continued to grow. It now oversees 280 units including parks, historic parks, beaches, recreation areas, vehicular recreation areas and natural reserves. The parks serve more than 70 million visitors annually from throughout California, the U.S. and around the globe, making California State Parks the biggest and most visited state park system in the world.

The "California State Parks, 150 Years" exhibit will remain on display at the Railroad Museum through 2014. For more information about the California State Railroad Museum, please visit [www.csrnf.org](http://www.csrnf.org) or call (916) 445-6645.

Department of Toxic Substances Control December 2013

## Public Notice

The mission of DTSC is to protect California's people and environment from harmful effects of toxic substances through the restoration of contaminated resources, enforcement, regulation and pollution prevention

**EMERGENCY PERMIT  
AMPAC FINE CHEMICALS  
RANCHO CORDOVA, CALIFORNIA  
November 13, 2013 to February 12, 2014**

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has issued an Emergency Permit to AMPAC Fine Chemicals (AMPAC) to store and treat hazardous waste. The hazardous waste to be treated consists of approximately 30 gallons of an intermediate product from the manufacture of a pharmaceutical. AMPAC has determined that the component has the potential to form Diazomethane, a shock sensitive compound, cannot be transported to a hazardous waste disposal site. Treatment will consist of deactivating the hazardous compound on-site. AMPAC has requested an emergency permit for storage, in the event that treatment and disposal is not completed with the allowed 90-day accumulation time.

DTSC requires an Emergency Permit because AMPAC does not have a permit for this type of hazardous waste treatment. It is unsafe to ship these items and there are no alternatives available.

Since this is a high priority threat to human health and the environment, DTSC issued this Emergency Permit to AMPAC effective November 13, 2013 through February 12, 2014. The Emergency Permit includes measures to minimize any adverse impacts to the community and the environment.

**CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA):** DTSC has determined that this Emergency Permit is exempt from the requirements of CEQA under Title 22, CCR, Section 66270.61 (d), actions necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency. DTSC filed a Notice of Exemption which starts a 45-day time period for any legal challenges to DTSC's CEQA determination for this Emergency Permit.

DTSC Sacramento Regional Office - File Room  
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# CORDOVA HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

## Lady Lancers Lose Close Games

By Mike Bush

**RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG)** - Close but no wins was the theme for the Cordova High School girls basketball team last week. At the Lancer Gym on Dec. 13, Cordova (1-6) capped off a four-game schedule in five days against Folsom. The Lady Lancers rallied in the last three quarters but fell to Lady Bulldogs, 49-38. After watching the Bulldogs jumped out to a 20-3 lead after the first quarter, the Lady Lancers rallied in the second quarter to trim their opponents' lead to 27-14. Cordova outscored Folsom in the second half, 24-22, but it wasn't enough. "We should've had that game," Cordova head coach Raymond

Bradley said. "Folsom made its shots down the stretch."

### Vista del Lago 50, Cordova 38

At the Lancers' gym Dec. 12, the visiting Eagles had a 22-18 halftime lead over the Lancers. But Vista was about to outshoot Cordova, which had strong rebounding on offense in the game. "We just didn't execute," Bradley said. "We are supposed to execute down the stretch. We rebounded strong against Vista, we just didn't make our put backs."

Lancer guard Brianna Clark had 11 points, followed by Cauje Curney with eight and Monique Newton six. Andalena Ware had three points for Cordova, and

Kayla Hontz, Monar Newton and Jullissa Reis had two points each.

### Capital Christian 53, Cordova 31

Another non-league game at the Lancers' gym Dec. 10, the visiting Cougars led 37-15 at halftime for the win.

### Argonaut 67, Cordova 43

This non-league game was played at the Lancers' gym on Dec. 9.

Earlier this week, Cordova played at Rocklin and hosted River Valley of Yuba City.

Today - Friday - Cordova continues non-league action at Ponderosa. ★

## Lancer Boys Hoops Improve to 6-2

By Mike Bush

**RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG)** - Five games for the Cordova High School boys basketball team led to more wins last week.

The Lancers (6-2) topped Hiram Johnson, 88-74, on Dec. 14 to conclude action in the McDonald's Classic at Edison High School of Stockton for a seventh place finish. The win capped a 3-2 record for the week, and 6-2 for the season.

Against Hiram Johnson, Cordova jumped out to a 28-11 lead in the first quarter, and led 48-31 at halftime.

"They turned the ball over quite a bit," said Cordova head coach Fletcher Johnson of Johnson.

But the Warriors made most of their shots that made the last 16 minutes of the game very competitive.

"Johnson played better than the first time," said Johnson, whose Lancers beat the Warriors 115-60 on Dec. 6. "They made buckets and they competed with us. It was a pretty competitive game."

Four Lancer players scored in double figures; Lamar Brewer had 16 points, JaQuan Lewis 14 and C.J. Coles and Alex Yakimchuk had 12 each.

Brewer had eight of the Lancers' 41 rebounds. Marquis Bolden and DeMario Newman had seven each.

Chavez 86, Cordova 83, double overtime

In last Friday's consolation game, Cordova rallied in the fourth quarter after Chavez led

49-45 entering the quarter. The Titans led 35-24 at halftime.

Both teams scored nine points each in the first overtime period. But in the second OT, the Lancers took an early lead and held off the Titans for the win.

"It was a very competitive game," Johnson said. "We shot the ball real poor, even though the game was close. We shot the ball very well from the outside."

Cordova made adjustments on defense to pressure Chavez's shooters prior to the second OT. That worked as the Titans were held to seven points in the second OT while the Lancers had 10.

Four players also scored in double figures for Cordova; Jordan Roberson led the way with 25 points that included a perfect 6-for-6 from the free throw line. Brewer had 15 points, Nathaniel Hendrix 14 and Bolden 11.

Hendrix had seven of the Lancers' 37 rebounds, and Bolden and Brewer had six each. Bolden had four of Cordova's 16 steals.

### Brookside Christian 65, Cordova 60

In the second game of the tourney on Dec. 12, the Lancers were outscored by the Knights in the second half, 34-28, which proved to be the difference.

Roberson had 18 points and Brewer 12. Hendrix and Yakimchuk scored seven points each and Kyle Lorena had five.

Coles had five of the Lancers' 27 rebounds. Newman and Hendrix had four each.

### Cordova 65, Sierra 64

In the first game of the tournament Dec. 11, the Lancers were held to a combined 15 points in the second half. The game was tied at 30-30 at halftime before Cordova outscored the Timberwolves, 20-15, for a 50-45 lead after three quarters.

Roberson had 17 points in the game, Coles 13 and Brewer 12. Lewis and Yakimchuk had six points each. Brewer and Newman had five boards each. Cordova pulled down 26 rebounds. Coles had four of the team's 10 assists.

### Cordova 69, McClatchy 68

In a non-league game at McClatchy on Dec. 9, the Lancers led 49-41 entering the fourth quarter. They held off a late Lions charge to post the win.

Roberson led Lancer scorers with 21 points. Brewer followed with 18 points, and Hendrix 10. Bolden and Hendrix had six rebounds each, Newman five and Lewis four. Cordova had 35 rebounds.

Johnson has been pleased with his team's fast start.

"We're running the ball, we're making adjustments," Johnson said.

Cordova returns to action Thursday, Dec. 26 when it starts action in its own Cordova Christmas Classic at the Lancer Gym. Cordova plays Rosemont at 7:30 p.m.

Other Sacramento schools competing are power houses Christian Brothers and Jesuit, plus McClatchy, Encina, Inderkum and Will C. Wood. ★

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