

LOST VOICES OF SEPTEMBER

MARK, THIS IS YOUR MOM... THE NEWS IS THAT IT'S BEEN HIJACKED BY TERRORISTS.

MARK, IT'S JIM. I'M JUST TRYING TO GET A HOLD OF YOU EVERYWHERE.

9/11: WE WILL NEVER FORGET

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San Jose Mercury News

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9/11 TEN YEARS LATER

Stuck in the past

State schools and educators left on their own to decide how — and whether — to teach about terror attacks while budget cuts delay updates to history books



DAI SUGANO/STAFF

Fifth-graders at Jason M. Dahl Elementary School listen to teacher Amanda Woldhuis reads a book about the 9/11 terror attack Wednesday in San Jose. The school is named for the pilot of doomed United Flight 93.

By Theresa Harrington
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The classroom was silent as spellbinding images of giant airplanes crashing into towering skyscrapers flashed across a screen.

Students watched with open mouths as anguished people and ash-covered firefighters wandered through New York City streets as the twin towers crumbled.

"Those are color pictures," teacher Kandi Lancaster told students gaping at the gritty, gray images. "They look black and white."

The lesson — which focused on the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and their effects on American society — did not come out of a California textbook.

Instead, it came from the staff at Walnut Creek Intermediate school, which created its own lesson plan five years ago to educate students about the worst terrorist attack in American history.

Ten years after 9/11, the California Department of Education still hasn't updated its history and social studies curriculum to incorporate the attacks. This leaves California educators largely on their own as they grapple with how — or whether — to discuss the events of 9/11 and their aftermath.

See **TEACHING**, Page 13



SUSAN TRIPP POLLARD/STAFF

Teacher Kandi Lancaster shows a presentation Sept. 1 to Walnut Creek Intermediate seventh-graders about the attacks and how the world changed afterward.

MORE 9/11 COVERAGE

Sports: Stanford swimmer honors her firefighter father, who died at the World Trade Center, in her own way. **PAGE C1**

Home & Garden: Memorial gardens thriving. **PAGE E1**

Inside: A reader shares his memory of 9/11. **PAGE A13**

Inside: Local 9/11 commemorative events. **PAGE B2**

Online: More coverage, including local and nation photo slideshows, video, share your memories and more at MERCURYNEWS.COM/SEPT-11

ECONOMIC UNCERTAINTY

Foreign turmoil torches Wall St.

European debt, financial official's resignation send markets tumbling

By Christine Hauser
New York Times

Stocks on Wall Street declined sharply, and 10-year bond yields hit fresh lows Friday as developments in Europe related to sovereign debt problems weighed on the financial markets.

Analysts attributed the declines, which pushed down indexes more than 5 percent for the month to date, at least partially to reactions related to the resignation of a top financial official at the European Central Bank, a development that put a spotlight on the internal discord over the response to the debt crisis. Jurgen Stark, a German who is leaving his position on the executive board of the ECB, is known as an opponent of the bank's bond-buying program.

In addition, a Bloomberg News report said Germany was preparing banks in the event that Greece failed to meet the terms of its aid package and defaulted.

"These are particularly negative headlines, and the market took them as such," said Dan Green-

See **MARKETS**, Page 12

NO BALLOT ITEM NEEDED

State, Amazon find compromise on sales tax plan

By Steven Harmon
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SACRAMENTO — Amazon.com and brick-and-mortar retailers can stand down.

In a move aimed at avoiding a costly, bloody battle at the ballot box — and with the clock running out on the legislative session — both chambers of the Legislature on Friday night overwhelmingly approved a compromise with the Seattle-based online retail giant over the issue of collecting sales tax.

The measure was first approved 36-1 in the Senate. Then the Assembly sent it to Gov. Jerry Brown on a 62-8 vote.

The bill gives Amazon at least a year before it has to begin collecting sales taxes from its customers and paying the state roughly \$200 million a year.

"Passage of e-fairness legislation in California

See **LEGISLATORS**, Page 13

EXCEPTIONAL ATHLETE

Gymnast's ability flies in face of expectations

CHELSEA'S TRAVELS

In May: She won the all-around title at her first national Special Olympics event in Marietta, Ga.

On Sunday: Will participate in the Down syndrome International Gymnastics Championships in Leicester, England.

Danville teen with Down syndrome takes home national championship

By Carl Steward
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Chelsea Werner is far more than just a gymnast with Down syndrome. The 19-year-old Danville resident is the kind of athlete who inspires others to greatness and challenges the perceptions of possibility.

"If more parents could see what Chelsea could do, I think they'd realize their kids could do so much more than anyone gives them credit for," said Werner's mom, Lisa Werner.

Chelsea Werner wasn't supposed to develop the necessary physical attributes. She wasn't supposed to get past the most rudimentary level of artistic gymnastics. She wasn't supposed to show the persistence needed to stick with such a rigorous sport.

See **GYMNAST**, Page 13



DOUG DURAN/STAFF

Coach Dawn Pombo works with Chelsea Werner, 19, both of Danville, on a gymnastics routine.

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Private donations will keep Henry Coe State Park open

BUSINESS » D1

With Bartz gone, AOL chief explores merger with Yahoo

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