



PAGE B5

Visceral 'Battle: Los Angeles'



Your Turn

PAGE C1



APPEAL-DEMOCRAT

Monday, March 14, 2011

Marysville-Yuba City, California

Online: www.appealdemocrat.com

Single copy 69¢ + tax

SINCE YOU ASKED

Why can't we e-mail Marysville officials?

By Rob Young
Appeal-Democrat

Q: Why does the city of Marysville website not provide e-mail information for relevant staff and city leaders? This makes it more onerous for members of the public to contact the city and gain relevant information or ask questions. As a Marysville resident who works full-time out of town and in a job that doesn't allow enough time for personal calls, it makes it extremely difficult to contact government officials during working hours.

A: Marysville Administrative Services Manager Dixon Coulter said your question on the subject is the first he's heard in 11 years.

The lack of an e-mail feature on the website is driven more by a lack of resources than anything else. Unlike some cities, Marysville, which has already laid off employees, doesn't have anyone with a lot of time to spend on the website and has chosen to put its limited resources elsewhere, he said.

"We don't have that number of people," he said. Coulter added that he does have an e-mail address at City Hall - it's just not on the website. Anyone who really wants it can call and ask for it, he said.

And there is a voicemail system, or you could fax, or you could talk to the city clerk, he said.

For you, however, calling might not be so easy.

Coulter was on vacation when we first called City Hall and said we had a question for him. An employee kindly suggested writ-

Turn to **ASKED / A5**



ROB YOUNG

Since You Asked appears on Mondays.

PROGRAM HELPS REMOVE TATTOOS

Erasing ink for a new life

By Nancy Pasternack
npasternack@appealdemocrat.com

David Brock wanted to be a tough guy. But after years of methamphetamine abuse, gang affiliation and incarceration, he is looking to turn his life around.

The Pathways residential drug treatment program in Marysville is helping him get squared away on the inside, he said.

Now he wants to do the same on the outside.

"My whole body's a tattoo," said the 26-year-old Marysville resident. "People don't wanna have nothing to do with me, based on my appearance."

On Friday, he underwent treatment to begin removal of messages inked on his wrist, hands, knuckles and above his eyebrows.

A local low-cost program called Tats Off, is allowing him to pay for \$50-per-visit fees with an IOU of volunteer work at the Church of Glad Tidings, north of Yuba City. The church, which has several medical professionals volunteering time and services, will put Brock to work as soon as he completes drug treatment in May.

"It's painful, but they want it," said Lou Binninger, who founded the program five years ago through Glad Tidings.

The initial idea, he said, is to help inmates, parolees and people on probation better their chances of staying on the straight and narrow by removing visible signs of their past.

"You could be getting married to Mary but you've got Suzie's name tattooed on your forehead - and that's not going to work," he said.

Tats Off also will treat people without a criminal record, though the program's main focus is on those with gang-related markings.

Nicholle Lewis of Chico is one of about a dozen regretful inksters with appointments Friday.

Three years ago, she said,



Photos by David Bitton/Appeal-Democrat

David Brock of Marysville shows some of his 256 tattoos at Sutter North Surgery Center in Yuba City on Friday. "I'm getting tattoos removed to change my lifestyle. I'm tired of my lifestyle and I'm tired of going to prison," said Brock. He's taking part in the Tats Off program offered through the Church of Glad Tidings which removes visible tattoos at minimal cost to prepare people for employment.

"I was into drugs and alcohol and I didn't really care what people thought of me and didn't think past the current day."

The 32-year-old cosmetologist will celebrate two years of sobriety in May. A repeat DUI offender, she is working

Nicholle Lewis of Chico grimaces in pain while Dr. Joe Cassady works to remove a tattoo on her ankle at Sutter North Surgery Center on Friday. Lewis is taking part in the Tats Off program to help inmates, parolees and people on probation better their chances of staying straight by removing visible signs of their past.

through a 30-month treatment and education program in Butte County.

She is heavily tattooed, she said, but she worries that the ones on her knuckles, behind her ear, and on her ankle could hinder her ability to improve her circumstances and chances of professional success.

"I still have my whole life in front of me," Lewis said. "And this doesn't fit me anymore."

Sutter North Surgery Center hosts Tats Off by appointment one Friday each month, and Dr. Margaret Stiles of Feather River Plastic Surgery and Yuba County Health Officer Dr. Joseph Cassady perform most of the treatments.

Patients are recommended through Glad Tidings.

A Sutter North philanthropy committee approved the purchase of a new \$120,000 tattoo-removal laser in 2009. Prior to the purchase of the equipment, the program had been renting a laser for about \$1,100 a month, said Sutter North Surgery Center Administrator Dean Ward.

The doctors and equipment travel to Juvenile Hall in Marysville, as well as to the Yuba County Jail to treat roughly 15 inmates each month.

Ward said he and other program coordinators offered to treat inmates at the Sutter

Turn to **TATTOOS / A6**



JAPAN EARTHQUAKE

Second blast at stricken plant

By Eric Talmadge and Shino Yuasa
Associated Press

SOMA, Japan - The second hydrogen explosion in three days rocked Japan's stricken Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant today, sending a massive column of smoke into the air and wounding six workers. The plant's operator said radiation levels at the reactor were still within legal limits.

The explosion at the plant's Unit 3, which authorities have been frantically trying to cool following a system failure in the wake of a massive earthquake and tsunami, triggered an order for hundreds of people to stay indoors, said Chief Cabinet Secretary Yukio Edano.

Tokyo Electric Power Co. said radiation levels at Unit 3 were 10.65 microsieverts, significantly under the 500 microsieverts at which a nuclear operator must file a report to the government.

The blast follows a similar explosion Saturday that took place at the plant's Unit 1, which injured four workers and caused mass-evacuations.

INSIDE

■ As digging begins for bodies, officials estimate more than 10,000 dead in disaster / **B6**

Japan's nuclear safety agency said 6 workers were injured in Monday's explosion but it was not immediately clear how, or whether they were exposed to radiation. They were all conscious, said the agency's Ryohei Shomi.

The reactor's inner containment vessel holding nuclear rods was intact, Edano said, allaying some fears of the risk to the environment and public. TV footage of the building housing the reactor appeared to show similar damage to Monday's blast, with outer walls shorn off, leaving only a skeletal frame.

More than 180,000 people have evacuated the area in recent days, and up to 160 may have been

Turn to **JAPAN / A5**



Associated Press

An official scans a man and a child for radiation at an emergency center Sunday in Koriyama, Japan. People who live around the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant might have been exposed to radiation after an explosion of the Unit 1 reactor in the wake of a massive earthquake and tsunami Friday in northeastern Japan.



Vol. 160 ▾ No. 73

DAILY



Bridge.....**D3**
Calendar.....**C2-3**
Classified.....**D1**
Classic Comics....**C4**
Comics.....**D6**

Crosswords.....**C4**
Dear Abby.....**C4**
Entertainment....**B5**
Local.....**A2**
Lottery.....**A2**

Nation.....**A4**
Obituaries.....**C2**
Opinion.....**C5**
Sports.....**B1**
State.....**A3**

Sudoku.....**D2**
US Profile.....**A2**
Weather.....**A6**
World.....**C6**
Your Turn.....**C1**



HIGH: 65
LOW: 51

