

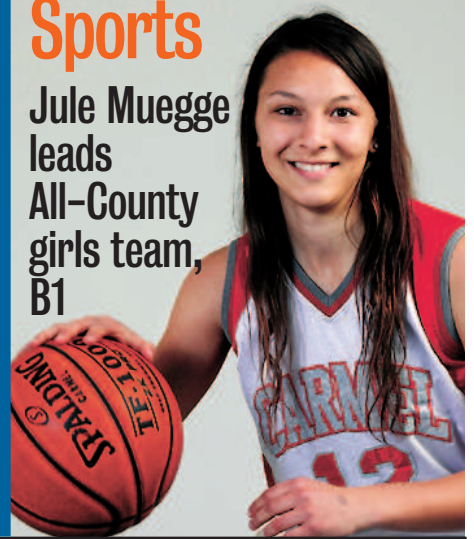
TOP SEEDS: KANSAS, PITT, DUKE, OHIO ST.

Late-season slump keeps Saint Mary's out of tournament

Story on page B1, bracket on B4

Sports

Jule Muegge leads All-County girls team, B1



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Monterey County

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The Herald

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COUNTYWIDE SPELLING BEE

Cybernetics is the word

HOME-TAUGHT 7TH-GRADER WINS TITLE

By KEVIN HOWE
Herald Staff Writer

A home-schooled boy in seventh grade from Pebble Beach, who placed third in last year's tournament, won the Monterey County 2011 Countywide Spelling Bee championship.

Dylan Bird, a former All

Cybernetics

The science of communication and control theory that is concerned especially with the comparative study of automatic control systems (as the nervous system and brain and mechanical-electrical communication systems). —Merriam-Webster

Saints Episcopal Day School student now enrolled in the Monterey County Home Charter School, won with his

correct spelling of the word "cybernetics."

The contest came down to "a duel of the Dylans." Second place went to Dylan Dizon of Salinas, a student at Mission Park Elementary School, who floundered on "radiac."

Both said they pored over the list of words sent to them to study for the spelling bee, though Dylan Dizon remarked that "radiac" wasn't among them.

The two boys went head to

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See our Web site for a slide show from this event.

head through several rounds at the spelling bee finale.

Third place was won by last year's champion, Emma Finch, a seventh-grader at Carmel Middle School, who lost on the spelling of

Please see Spelling page A11



DAVID ROYAL/The Herald

Countywide Spelling Bee winner Dylan Bird is congratulated by his father, Paul, and sister, Paris.

Making Giffords' views count

COLLEAGUES 'PROTECT HER FLANK'

By DONNA CASSATA
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Rep. Gabrielle Giffords' chair sits empty as she recovers from a gunshot wound to the head, yet three friends are ensuring she still has a presence in Congress.

At nearly every hearing of the House Armed Services Committee, the panel's top Democrat, Rep. Adam Smith of Washington state, carves out a few precious minutes from his time-limited turn quizzing military officials to ask a question on behalf of Giffords.

"She's a critical member of the committee — has been for the four years that she's been here," Smith said in a recent interview, just days after visiting Giffords at a Houston hospital. He confers with the Arizona Democrat's staff on questions that Giffords might ask about energy or the two major military installations in her district, the Army's Fort Huachuca and Davis-Monthan Air Force Base.

"I want to make sure her initiatives get in there," he said.

Please see Giffords page A11



Gabrielle Giffords
Husband contacted her friends in House.

JAPAN EARTHQUAKE



THE YUMIURI SHIMBUN/Associated Press

A ferry is stranded on a building in Otsuchi, Iwate Prefecture, northern Japan, on Sunday.

Crisis keeps worsening

EXPLOSION AT NUCLEAR REACTOR

By JAY ALABASTER and TODD PITMAN
Associated Press

TAKAJO, Japan — Rescue workers used chain saws and hand picks today to dig out bodies in Japan's devastated coastal towns, as Asia's richest nation faced a mounting humanitarian, nuclear and economic crisis in the aftermath of a massive earthquake and tsunami that likely killed thousands.

Millions of people spent a third night without water,

food or heating in near-freezing temperatures along the devastated northeastern coast; the containment building of a second nuclear reactor exploded because of hydrogen buildup while the stock market plunged over the likelihood of huge losses by Japanese industries including big names such as Toyota and Honda.

More than 10,000 people are estimated to have died in Friday's double-headed tragedy, which caused unimaginable deprivation

for people of this industrialized country that has not seen such hardships since World War II. In many areas there is no running water, no power and four- to five-hour waits for gasoline. People are suppressing hunger with instant noodles or rice balls while dealing with the loss of loved ones and homes.

"People are surviving on little food and water. Things are simply not coming," said Hajime Sato, a government

Please see Japan page A11



GREGORY BULL/Associated Press

A man searches for salvageable items from his home today in Yotsukura, Japan.

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SENIORS

Innovative surgery helps Tanimura, 95

COMPANY CO-FOUNDER STILL ACTIVE

By DENNIS TAYLOR
Herald Staff Writer

At 95, George Tanimura feels a bit too young and vibrant to be pushing an aluminum walker around the house. The co-founder of Tanimura & Antle, the Salinas produce giant, has things to do and people to see.

"He drives, he goes to his



George Tanimura
Went home the day of his operation

office, he goes to the valley, he flies to Yuma, Ariz.," says Lita Favolora, a registered nurse who has worked as a private-duty nurse for Tanimura and his wife, Masaye, during the past 3½ years.

"He's an active man, and has never been in a house,

confined."

So, when he suffered a debilitating back injury last December, Tanimura did what he's done all his life: He found a way to solve the problem.

"My wife was kind of weak at the time (from a recent hospital stay) and she fell," Tanimura said. "When I tried to help her up, I fell, too, and landed on my tailbone."

A painful compression

Please see Tanimura page A7

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