

NCAA tournament picks



MARCH MADNESS, 5A

LOCAL, 3A Salinas Valley All-Star soccer game

The Salinas Californian

Today's
forecast/8A
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GOOD
MONDAY
MORNING

Boy Scout saves his mom's life

King City teenager
honored in ceremony
with Heroism Award

BY J. MICHAEL RIVERA
For The Salinas Californian

On a fall day in October, Joey Sturgill of King City was at home with his 50-year-old mother, Jennie. After returning from feeding their two dogs outside, he found Jennie lying face down on the dogs' bed.

"She was cold to the touch," Sturgill recalled. "I knew she was down there for at least two minutes. She had no vitals whatsoever. I needed to get her to the hospital as fast as I could."

Joey Sturgill saved his mother's life that day. And for his heroic effort, the south Monterey County Boy Scout earned an award bestowed on fewer than 150 Scouts nationwide in 2010.

Sturgill, 16, a Life Scout from Troop 101 in King City, earned a Heroism Award for performing CPR on his mother on Oct. 8. He received the award in a ceremony Wednesday at the Sgt. Frank Lillard Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6747 in King City.

"Joey is a true leader, a hero," said Troop 101 Scoutmaster John Cumming. "We are very proud of him."

Sturgill has been a Scout since 2002 and works as a lifeguard at Camp Pico Blanco, a Boy Scout camp near Big Sur.

The live-saving story continues: After finding his mother unconscious, Sturgill wrapped his mother in the dogs' bed and dragged her to the driveway, where he flagged down passersby for a ride to nearby Mee Memorial Hospital.

A neighbor drove by who "had a sixth sense and knew what was going on," Sturgill said. "She drove us to the hospital while I was performing CPR in the back of their SUV."

Sturgill had to adjust how he performed CPR to the

See MONDAY, 2A

Japan quake death toll climbs

Radiation fears mount as second explosion rocks nuclear plant

BY MARK MAGNIER,
BARBARA DEMICK AND
LAURA KING
Los Angeles Times

REPORTING FROM
SENDAI, JAPAN —
With a death toll expected to climb into the tens of thousands, more than a half-million people dis-

INSIDE, 4A

- > Profile of Oregon man swept to his death by tsunami.
- > Santa Cruz harbor closed amid post-tsunami clean-up.

placed and a nuclear crisis continuing to unfold, rescuers converged Monday on Japan's devastated earthquake zone while workers in relatively unaffected areas struggled to return to offices and factories.

A new explosion rocked the stricken Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power complex, wire services reported, sending a plume of smoke into the air. Japan's nuclear safety agency said it could not confirm whether the hydrogen explosion at the plant's No. 3 reactor had led to an uncontrolled leak of radioactivity.

The government reported Monday that radiation

See JAPAN, 4A



Futaba Kosei Hospital patients who might have been exposed to radiation are carried into the compound of Fukushima Gender Equality Centre in Nihonmatsu in Fukushima Prefecture on Sunday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

County crowns spelling bee champ



Above: Dylan Bird, center, holds his trophy aloft after 22 rounds of the 2011 Countywide Spelling Bee on Sunday in Salinas. Below: Bird, left, holds his trophy while his sister, Paris Bird, 8, right, holds his arm after the spelling bee.

BY KIMBER SOLANA
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After coming in third place last year, Dylan Bird now can say he's the best speller in Monterey County.

The Salinas-based Monterey County Home Charter School seventh-grader outspelled 47 other competitors to win the 16th annual Countywide Spelling Bee, held in the main theater of the Hartnell College Performing Arts Center.

"I'm really happy," Dylan, of Pebble Beach, said after 22 nail-biting rounds. "I'm still shaking."

Dylan won after spelling "cybernetics," a word he immediately recognized from weeks of studying — unlike some trickier and more obscure words he was tasked to spell.

"Yeah, I remembered studying that word," said Dylan, who spelled it without hesitation to win the competition.

In similar quick fashion, Dylan breezed through words including, "romaine," "alfresco," "lethargic," "hyperbole," "charlatan," "fraulein," and "cringle" — often without the need to ask for the word's definition or language of origin.

"For students to reach this point, of being the champion of their school, means they have incredible breadth and depth of understanding of language," Nancy Kotowski, county superintendent of schools, told the students before the competition.

As the county's champ, Dylan will travel to Washington, D.C., in May to participate in the Scripps

SPELLING BEE RESULTS

- > **First Place:** Dylan Bird, Monterey County Home Charter School, 7th grade.
- > **Second Place:** Dylan Dizon, Monterey Park Elementary School, 6th grade.
- > **Third Place:** Emma Finch, Carmel Middle School, 7th grade.
- > **Fourth Place:** Cecilia Trujillo, Chualar Elementary School, 6th grade.
- > **Fifth Place:** (tie) Taylor Von Forell, Lagunita Elementary School, 7th grade; Madeline White, Vista Verde Middle School, 8th grade.



Pebble Beach seventh-grader wins annual competition following 22 grueling rounds

See BEE, 2A

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Layoffs inevitable in sheriff's plan

Preliminary budget plan includes deputy losses, withdrawal from gang task force

BY SUNITA VIJAYAN
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The proposed budget for the Monterey County Sheriff's Office now before the Board of Supervisors cuts to the bone with visions of fewer deputies on the streets and withdrawal from the county gang task force.

This worst-case scenario budget, though preliminary, is Sheriff Scott Miller's response to a \$12.2 million shortfall projected for the Sher-

iff's Office in the 2011-12 fiscal year.

The county has directed "across-the-board" cuts of nearly 8 percent for all departments because of a reduction in general fund contributions, Miller said on Friday.

"We need to balance our budget by reducing ... \$12.2 million," Miller said.

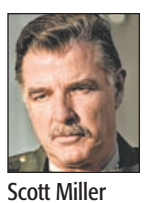
The sheriff said he has prepared a \$63 million budget plan for 2011-12. The department budget for 2010-11 was \$75 million, he said.

The deficit stems from a combination of things:

reduced general fund contributions, workers' compensation premium increases, automatic pay raises in his department stemming from the step system of salaries and additional costs passed along from the county, he said.

But the biggest increased cost is most likely from a \$3.4 million increase in workers' compensation premiums, Miller said.

Should this worst-case budget plan be approved, he said, there likely will be severe repercussions in the delivery of county public safety services, starting with reducing the number of patrol officers by 25 percent.



Scott Miller

See SHERIFF, 2A

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