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# SANTA MARIA TIMES

TODAY'S WEATHER



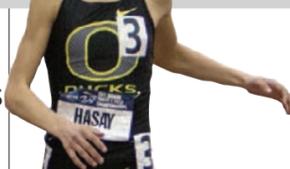
Partly cloudy,  
See A8

75¢ Daily / \$2 Sunday

MONDAY, MARCH 14, 2011

## PENSION FUND

Change could hit taxpayers  
California/A3



## HASAY DOUBLES

NCAA Indoor Nationals  
Sports/B3



## Season opener

Orcutt Little League  
Central Coast/A3

## FIRST INTERNS GRADUATE FROM MARIAN PROGRAM



Photos by Leah Thompson/Staff

Marian Medical Center Laboratory Director Beth Marsing, center, cuts a congratulatory cake for San Francisco State graduate students Jodi Ellis, left, of Orcutt and Lydia Tsai of the San Francisco Bay Area on the final day of their 10-month internship at Marian Medical Center.

## Students enter short-handed field

By GINA POTTHOFF  
STAFF WRITER

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Marian Medical Center hopes to help alleviate the state's shortage of clinical lab scientists by graduating its first-ever students from an internship program that feeds professionals into the field.

Two San Francisco State University students became the first to complete a 10-month stint with Marian Medical Center's graduate internship program Friday, celebrating with cake and congratulations before heading back to their campus.

Jodi Ellis of Orcutt and Lydia Tsai of the San Francisco Bay area will graduate with their two-year clinical lab science degrees and then take an intense licensing exam this spring before they can interpret results professionally at a hospital or other science lab.

"For me, it allowed me to do a second career," said Ellis, who had taught at Hancock

College for seven years with her bachelor's degree in biology before returning to school. "Doing this was a major change for the better."

The partnership between Marian and San Francisco State was made possible through the Clinical Laboratory Science (CLS) Internship Training Program, which is the college's 13-month full-time program that combines 16 weeks of lecture and laboratory instruction on the campus, followed by a 40-week off-campus internship at an affiliated clinical laboratory site.

Gary Goeringer, Marian's senior director of professional services, said Ellis and Tsai learned from the most experienced and talented CLS staff at Marian, who are responsible for quickly and accurately performing lab tests that doctors use for diagnosing patients.

"We do literally thousands of tests," Goeringer said.

See STUDENTS / A8



Jodi Ellis, foreground, examines a slide through a microscope as fellow student Lydia Tsai looks on.

## Fees could increase at county parks

### Supervisors to consider proposal Tuesday

By MARGA K. COOLEY  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

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Visitors to various county parks will pay a little more if a proposal to increase fees is approved Tuesday by the county Board of Supervisors.

The proposed day-use increases, which range from \$5 at picnic areas for up to 25 people to \$50 for picnic areas for 300 people or more, would bring the cost for park use more in line with comparable areas such as San Luis Obispo, Ventura, Orange and San Diego counties, and cities such as Santa Barbara and Santa Maria, county staff members said.

In addition to day-use

fees, county staff is proposing that fees for camping, weddings, film permits and special events be increased.

The adjustments are expected to generate approximately \$183,680 in additional revenue in 2010-11 and \$639,896 starting in 2011-12.

A breakdown for the coming fiscal year estimates the proposed increases will result in \$22,963 in additional revenue at the day-use parks, \$141,504 at camping parks,

\$1,313 for wedding events, \$1,178 for film and media use, and \$13,550 in additional revenue for special events.

Affected parks include the Joseph Centeno Cuyama Aquatics Complex, Cachuma Lake and Jalama Beach.

For example, the vehicle access fee at Jalama Beach would increase from \$8 to \$10, and an annual vehicle permit for the beach would

See BOARD / A8

## JAPAN EARTHQUAKE AFTERMATH

# 10,000 dead amid fears of nuclear meltdowns

By JAY ALABASTER  
AND TODD PITMAN  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SENDAI, Japan — The estimated death toll from Japan's disasters climbed past 10,000 Sunday as authorities raced to combat the threat of multiple nuclear reactor meltdowns and hundreds of thousands of people struggled to find food and water. The prime minister said it was the nation's worst crisis since World War II.

Nuclear plant operators worked frantically to try to keep temperatures down in several reactors crippled by the earthquake and tsunami, wrecking at least two by dumping sea water into them in last-ditch efforts to avoid meltdowns. Officials warned of a second explosion but said it would not pose a health threat.

Near-freezing temperatures compounded the misery of survivors along

### INSIDE

■ Six injured in second explosion at Japan nuclear plant.  
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hundreds of miles of the northeastern coast battered by the tsunami that smashed inland with breathtaking fury. Rescuers pulled bodies from mud-covered jumbles of wrecked houses, shattered tree trunks, twisted cars and tangled power lines while survivors examined the ruined remains.

One rare bit of good news was the rescue of a 60-year-old man swept away by the tsunami who clung to the roof of his house for two days until a military vessel spotted him waving a red cloth about 10 miles offshore.

The death toll surged

See QUAKE / A7

## UNREST IN LIBYA

# Gadhafi drives rebels from key oil town

By PAUL SCHEMM AND ZEINA KARAM  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BENGHAZI, Libya — Moammar Gadhafi's forces swept rebels from a key oil town Sunday with waves of strikes from warships, tanks and warplanes, closing on the opposition-held eastern half of Libya as insurgents pleaded for a U.N.-imposed no-fly zone.

Gadhafi's troops have been emboldened by a string of victories in the struggle for Libya's main coastal highway but their supply lines are stretched and their dependence on artillery, airstrikes and naval attacks makes it hard for them to swiftly consolidate control of territory, particularly at night.

The insurgents claimed they moved back into the strategic town of Brega after dusk in a fast-moving battle with a constantly shifting

front line, destroying armored vehicles and capturing dozens of fighters from Gadhafi's elite Khamis Brigade.

The United States sent U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton to meet with rebel leaders in Paris on Monday as world powers consider trying to ground Gadhafi's air force.

The Obama administration and other governments have expressed deep reservations about a tactic that would require them to destroy Gadhafi's air defenses and possibly shoot down his planes. The Arab League raised the pressure on the U.S. and its NATO allies on Saturday by asking the U.N. Security Council to impose a no-fly zone, but a day later they appeared no closer to taking action.

"This was a rare decision

See LIBYA / A8

# SPANKING 1-YEAR-OLDS IS COMMON IN DEPRESSED DADS

## Study raises awareness about under-recognized problem

ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO — Just like new moms, new fathers can be depressed, and a study found a surprising number of sad dads spanked their 1-year-olds.

About 40 percent of depressed

fathers in a survey said they'd spanked kids that age, versus just 13 percent of fathers who weren't depressed. Most dads also had had recent contact with their child's doctor — a missed opportunity to get help, authors of the study said.

The American Academy of Pedi-

atricians and many child development experts warn against spanking children of any age. Other studies have shown that kids who are spanked are at risk of being physically abused and becoming aggressive themselves.

The researchers said spanking is

especially troubling in children who are only 1, because they could get injured and they "are unlikely to understand the connection between their behavior and subsequent punishment."

The study was released online today in the journal Pediatrics.

The authors analyzed data on 1,746 fathers from a nationally representative survey in 16 large U.S.

cities, conducted in 1999-2000. Lead author Dr. Neal Davis said that was the most recent comprehensive data on the subject, and he believes it is relevant today. Depression among fathers is strongly tied to unemployment rates, which are much higher now than a decade ago, he said.

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