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# VISALIA TIMES-DELTA

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## Death toll estimate soars in Japan

Nuclear and humanitarian emergencies mount in aftermath of giant earthquake, tsunami

New York Times

SENDAI, Japan — Japan faced mounting humanitarian and nuclear emergencies Sunday as the death toll from Friday's earthquake and tsunami climbed astronomically, partial meltdowns occurred at two crippled plants and cooling problems struck four more reactors.

In one town alone, the port of Minamisanriku, a senior police official said the number of dead would "certainly be more than 10,000." The overall number is also certain to climb as searchers began to reach coastal villages that essentially vanished under the first muddy surge of the tsunami, which struck the nation's northern Pacific coast. Prime Minister Naoto Kan told a news conference late Sunday: "I think that the earthquake, tsunami and the situation at our nuclear reactors makes

INSIDE

Tsunami surge deals blow to struggling California town, 2C  
Japan's nuclear crisis deepens, 3A

up the worst crisis in the 65 years since the war."

The government ordered 100,000 troops into relief roles in the field — nearly half the country's active military force and the largest mobilization in postwar Japan. A U.S. naval strike group led by the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier Ronald Reagan also arrived off Japan on Sunday to help with refueling, supply and rescue duties.

Amid the despair and mourning, amid the worry over an unrelenting series of strong aftershocks, there was one bright moment on Sunday morning as Japanese naval forces rescued a 60-year-old man who had been riding the roof of his house for the past two days.

See JAPAN, 3A



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A boy has his radiation level checked in the compound of Fukushima Gender Equality Centre in Nihonmatsu, Fukushima Prefecture, north-eastern Japan, Sunday morning, after being evacuated from a town near the troubled Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant.

Bank pumps billions into stock market

The Associated Press

TOKYO — Japan's central bank injected a record 7 trillion yen (\$85.5 billion) into money markets and the Tokyo stock market nosedived today on the first business day since an earthquake and tsunami devastated the northeast and raised dire worries about the economy.

The benchmark Nikkei 225 stock average fell 487 points, or 4.8 percent, to 9,767.18. Worries about the economic impact of the disaster triggered a broad sell-off that hit all sectors.

See BANK, 3A

## MISSION ADDITION TAKES SHAPE



PHOTOS BY RON HOLMAN

Above: Construction continues on a 15,000 square-foot building at the Visalia Rescue Mission on N.E. First Street at Santa Fe on Thursday. Below: Danny Little, mission director, stands in the new building under construction.

## \$1.2 million privately funded building includes gymnasium

BY GERALD CARROLL  
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MISSION MINISTRY

Information on the Visalia Rescue Mission is available by calling 740-4178 or online at [www.VRMHope.com](http://www.VRMHope.com).

is the most important part of the new building, located between Santa Fe Street and N.E. First Avenue.

The gym will be reserved for activities, including basketball, Van Ginkel said, and will serve as emergency shelter during severely cold or hot weather.

See MISSION, 3A



## VUSD gets A+ from watchdog group

BY MIKE HAZELWOOD  
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SUNSHINE WEEK

Visalia Unified School District received a perfect score from a watchdog group that randomly tested California school districts' response to public records requests.

Two other county school districts also passed the test of their adherence to the California Public Records Act:

> Dinuba Unified School District received an A grade.

> Tulare City School District, the city's K-8 district, received a C grade.

CalAware audited 194 school districts, mostly at random. The nonprofit group made efforts to include districts of various sizes from all areas of

A national initiative to promote a dialogue about the importance of open government and freedom of information. The Visalia Times-Delta/Tulare Advance-Register are celebrating the initiative this week by examining open records practices throughout the county.

the state.

VUSD was one of 41 districts (about 21 percent) scoring perfect.

"The audit's downside was that half the districts failed miserably," CalAware wrote in its final report. The average score was 57, an F average. Five districts were graded with a D, while 106 received an F.

See VUSD, 3A

## Survey: Obstacles remain in state government

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — More openness in government. Lawmakers across the country, including the Republicans who took control in many states this year, say they want it.

But a survey of all 50 states by The Associated Press has found that efforts to boost openness often are being thwarted by old patterns of secrecy. The survey did find

signs of progress in a number of states, especially in technological efforts to make much more information available online.

See STATE, 3A



INSIDE

Agencies struggling to meet Obama's order on FOIA, 4A

## QUICK NEWS



Phil Cox

### Supervisors to choose redistricting group

Tulare County supervisors on Tuesday will select the 11 people who will constitute the county's new redistricting committee. The group will develop and propose methods by which the county might realign the boundaries of its five voting districts.

See full story, 1C

### Gadhafi forces drive rebels from oil town

— 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.

See full story, 7A

### Wisconsin union fight not over

Opponents of Republican Gov. Scott Walker were back at work Sunday on recall efforts targeting Republican state senators who supported the new governor's overhaul of public employee union rights.

See full story, 4A

### Users: iPhone clock bungles time change

NEW YORK (AP) — Users of Apple's iPhone peppered Twitter and blogs with complaints Sunday when their phones bungled the one-hour "spring forward" to daylight saving time overnight Saturday.

One user complained of missing church, another of almost missing yoga. One called her iPhone stupid and several just asked for help. It turns out some users' phones fell back one hour instead of springing forward, making the time displayed on the iPhone two hours off. This is just the latest clock woe for Apple's chic iPhone. A clock glitch prevented alarms from sounding on New Year's Day.

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Low Medium High

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Wednesday: 8.5

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Source: Dr. A.M. Aminian

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