

Weather watch
 High: 82° Low: 54°
 Partly cloudy
 Full report page D4

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ON WINE — C1

OLYMPIC NEWS — D4

Michael Phelps back on top

Advice for aspiring vintners

Gabby Douglas wins the gold



Tweeting the Oakland Raiders

Reporters bring digital arsenal to Napa training camp

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On the practice field at Redwood Middle School, the Oakland Raiders blocked and tackled Tuesday in much the way football teams have done for decades.

But along the sideline, the two dozen or so reporters covering the team's second day of training camp were equipped in a way they hadn't been even a half decade earlier. Notebooks

and pens were scarce; in their place were numerous iPhones and iPads, their owners constantly thumbing out updates that would reach their online readers within seconds.

"I spend a good portion of the practice tweeting," said Christopher Hansen, a blogger for the Bleacher Report sports news site. He had sent out more than 50 Twitter messages on the Raiders' first day of practice Monday. "A lot of traditional reporters will be taking notes; I

pretty much use the tweets as my notes."

Once defined by the routine of jotting or typing notes by day and filing long stories by an evening deadline, sports coverage is increasingly built upon bite-size updates constantly fed to an audience with the Internet at their desks or even in their pockets.

A college broadcast journalism major, Hansen saw a



With the advancement of social media, smartphones get as much use as cameras during Oakland Raiders football training camp. *Jorgen Gulliksen/Register*

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Olympic gold medalist Peggy Fleming chats with a fan during her stop at the Walmart Supercenter in American Canyon on Thursday. Fleming, who won her medal in figure skating in Grenoble, France in 1968, appeared as part of the Procter & Gamble Tour of London at the store. *J.L. Sousa/Register*

Skating champ stars at Walmart

Peggy Fleming touts household products

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AMERICAN CANYON — As figure skating champion Peggy Fleming was talking about what it was like to compete in the Olympics, Big Ben chimed the quarter-hour.

This wasn't London. Nor was it the real Big Ben.

Fleming was in the Walmart Supercenter in American Canyon Thursday, standing in front of a 21-foot-high replica of the famous London clock, part of the Procter & Gamble "Tour of London" display.

A gold medal winner in ladies singles figure skating in Grenoble, France in the 1968 Olympics, Fleming was on hand to sign autographs as part of the compa-

ny's "Thank You Mom" Olympics promotion.

As a mother and grandmother, Fleming was a natural for the promotion, according to Procter & Gamble spokesman Tim Marrin. The promotions centers on TV commercials for the company's many products that show moms nurturing young athletes from childhood practice to Olympic competition.

Encouraged by her own mother, Fleming said she is a believer in helping kids follow their passions.

"Parents really need to be guided by their child's interest and enthusiasms" and lead by example, she said. "You set the pace, you're the first role model."

Her parents introduced her to a variety of activities including dance and

music before she tried skating at age 9, she said.

She and skating were a good match, she said. "I loved the challenge of getting better," she said.

While neither of her two sons followed her lead in skating, "They did rowing all through high school."

To encourage them, she said, her family was among the founding members of a rowing club in Los Gatos.

"They never got interested in skating too much. They did their rowing. They did snow boarding and skiing."

Fleming, who turned 64 on opening day of the games, looks fit. She said she still skates a little, mostly with her grandkids and at the occasional function. "I don't perform anymore," she said.

The San Jose native said her favorite

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City backs down from senior center rate hike

Fees need further study, officials say

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For a brief time in early July, a city plan to better use space at the Napa Senior Center had many senior-serving organizations in an uproar.

The city proposed imposing higher rental fees on some groups as a way of opening up rooms for new groups.

Some organizations rallied in opposition. Rental fee increases might have caused smaller groups to disband and other clubs to triple their membership dues to cover the higher rental costs, leaders feared.

This wave of opposition got a quick response. The increases have been averted for now. In late July, the city notified some 45 organizations that fees will not increase "at this time or in the immediate future."

The letter came after roughly 50 seniors and others who use the Jefferson Street center attended a Senior Advisory Commission in July to speak out against the then-proposed rate adjustments.

"Most of these groups that meet over there are nonprofit, and a lot of seniors are involved so they don't have a lot of money," said Shirley Hansen, a member of the Napa Valley Quilters Guild, which meets at the center one Saturday a month. "We all just thought it was an exorbitant amount they were talking about raising the rent to."

Current fees to use the senior center range from a few dollars an hour up to above \$40, depending on type of organization and space, according to a city staff report. Support groups and those holding free social events are not charged.

The proposal would have moved clubs that charge annual membership dues but do not charge to attend meetings into a higher pay bracket if they met on nights and weekends,

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Summer interns appreciate insider's view of Napa courts

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To students pondering law school, there are often doubts as to whether a legal career will be right for them.

On TV, lawyers present criminal cases with verbal wizardry and great drama, but is this how it truly is in local courts?

The Napa Courts sponsor a summer intern program for high school, college and law school students to answer some of these questions.

For three weeks in June, five interns accepted in the free Courthouse Immersion Program observes lawyers and judges at

work at Napa County Superior Court to gain insights into the legal system.

The interns followed the entire trial of Michael Copithorne, a former teacher accused of having had sexual relationships with a former student. They mingled with attorneys and spoke with security guards and other courtroom employees.

The interns also visited other agencies, including the Napa Police Department, Child Welfare Services and the Napa County Probation Department.

Heather Varinini, a college graduate, said her experience with the Courthouse Immersion Program — or CHIP — solidified

her desire to go to law school.

"I was really impressed," said the 29-year-old San Francisco resident who is applying for law school this fall.

Judge Ray Guadagni, who recently retired, said law schools are all about theory. The intern program shows the reality of the courts.

More people need to understand the legal process for the courts to have credibility, said Richard Feldstein, the court executive officer.

Ariel Cohen, a sophomore at UCLA, took part in the court immersion program in the spring

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COLOR IN THE VINEYARDS — Wine grapes around the valley are beginning to show color, a sign that the 2012 harvest is soon. By mid-month, growers will be harvesting fruit for sparkling wine. For a Napa Valley Grapegrowers' report in on the onset of ripening, see page C1. *J.L. Sousa/Register*

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