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Buhach Colony beats rival Atwater 4-0

SPORTS, PAGE D1

TEXAS:
Town digging out after explosion
NATION, PAGE A4

Lawsuit over fast-rail segment is settled

Ag groups, state forge pact on plan's impact

By **TIM SHEEHAN**
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FRESNO — Farming interests in Madera and Merced counties dropped their environmental lawsuit challenging the first section of the statewide high-speed rail

project. The California High-Speed Rail Authority and representatives of several agricultural organizations announced the settlement Thursday afternoon after Sacramento County Superior Court Judge Timothy Frawley signed off on it, less than 24 hours before attorneys were to argue their points in Frawley's courtroom. The settlement removes the last

legal challenge to the authority's approval last May of the 60-mile stretch of the proposed rail route between Merced and Fresno, and certification of the environmental impact report that was the basis for the route approval.

Farm Bureaus in Madera and Merced counties were among the organizations suing the rail authority. Anja Raudabaugh, the Madera bureau's executive direc-

tor, said the rail authority gave significant concessions: increased mitigation of agricultural impacts, and direct compensation for landowners affected by the project.

The lawsuit was filed by the Madera County Board of Supervisors, the two Farm Bureaus, Preserve Our Heritage (a Valley-based, grass-roots agriculture organization), Chowchilla Water District and the Fagundes farm-

ing family in Madera and Merced counties. They alleged that the rail authority used a "flawed process" to assess the effects of the high-speed rail project on agriculture and that the agency illegally approved the Merced-Fresno line.

The Madera County Board of Supervisors voted earlier this month to withdraw from the case.

SEE RAIL, BACK PAGE

'We throw terms out like "Bear baseball." Dallas is "Bear baseball.'

— Lou Souza, former Merced High baseball coach

Longtime Bears batboy a star on and off the diamond



Merced High player Jordan Kemps laughs as batboy Dallas Young shows off his muscles before Merced's game against Pitman. Dallas has Down syndrome and is a popular part of the baseball team and around campus. He was voted Homecoming King in the fall.

Story by **Shawn Jansen** • Photos by **Bea Ahbeck**
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The Merced High baseball season is winding down and this fact is not lost on Dallas Young.

The 17-year-old senior is in his third and final season with the Bears baseball program.

In the final weeks of the season it's almost as if Dallas has made it a point to personally break the news to his teammates, one by one, that he won't be around as much next year.

During Wednesday's game against Golden Valley, Dallas found a spot on the bench next to teammate Tyler Schortzman.

"You guys are going to need to get a new manager," Dallas said. "I'm gradu-

ating. I'm going to retire."

"I know," Schortzman said. "I'm going to miss you."

"Me too," said Dallas, as he patted his buddy on the shoulder.

Dallas has Down syndrome.

Despite never scoring a run or ever recording a strikeout, he's had as much impact on the baseball program as any

SEE DALLAS, PAGE A7

ONLINE: Watch a video of Dallas Young, a batboy for the Merced High Bears baseball team at www.mercedsunstar.com.



Dallas Young races to collect bats and watches intently for when it's his time to spring into action.



Images taken from surveillance video show two men the FBI are calling Suspect 2, left, in white cap, and Suspect 1, right, in black cap.

FBI releases photos of 2 suspects

By **LESLEY CLARK** and **CHRIS ADAMS**
McClatchy Newspapers

BOSTON — Federal officials on Thursday unveiled photographs of two people they consider suspects in connection with Monday's bombing at the Boston Marathon and asked the public for help identifying them.

"Somebody out there knows these individuals as friends, neighbors, co-workers or family members," Richard DesLauriers, special agent in charge of the FBI's Boston field office, said during an eight-minute briefing at 5:20 p.m. "Though it may be difficult, the nation is counting on those with information to come forward and provide it to us."

The 11 photos on the FBI's website show two young-looking men — "Suspect One" wearing a dark hat, "Suspect Two" wearing a white hat. They appear to be associated. They strolled through the marathon crowds near the finish line, and Suspect Two sets down a backpack at the site of the second of two explosions, DesLauriers said.

He said the only photos that should be relied on were those the FBI released Thursday at its news briefing and on its website, www.fbi.gov.

More than 1,000 federal, state and local law enforcement officials have taken part in the investigation and manhunt. The FBI's Boston Joint Terrorism Task Force is coordinating 30 federal, state and local law enforcement agencies.

SEE BOSTON, PAGE A7

Emergency responders say they're well tested since 9-11

By **RAMONA GIWARGIS**
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Two national tragedies in one week have served as a somber reminder that people might not be as safe as they thought.

"I think all of us have taken things for granted, since it's been many years since 9-11," said Cal Fire Capt. Jeremy Rahn, assistant coordinator for Merced County's

office of emergency services.

"With the recent events that have happened we all have to be aware of our surroundings and be prepared," he said.

Each city in the county has its own plan to respond to emergencies, Rahn said, but county agencies are there to provide additional

SEE EMERGENCY, PAGE A7

QuickTake

News outside Merced County

MONEY MISHANDLED: Auditors reported problems in how California agencies collect and spend money from specialty license plates, with \$22 million lost. See Page A-3

A MIND IN TURMOIL: A Mississippi man charged with sending ricin-laced letters was described as emotionally troubled. See Page A-4

HEAVY-DUTY WAITING: Air traffic controller furloughs scheduled to kick in Sunday could result in flight delays. See Page A-6

Expansion of McClure a test of McClintock political clout

By **MICHAEL DOYLE**
Sun-Star Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — A politically difficult bill allowing the expansion of Lake McClure will now test whether Rep. Tom McClintock, R-Granite Bay, has learned how to move the levers of California water.

As chairman of the House

water and power subcommittee, McClintock can showcase his favorite issues. He did so Thursday, presenting to another House panel his legislation allowing potential expansion of Lake McClure by the Merced Irrigation District.

SEE WATER, BACK PAGE

WEATHER

Sunny and warmer today; clear and cool tonight. High of 83; low of 53.

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COMING TOMORROW

As temperature gauges go up, so does graffiti, but officials have plans in place to fight back against vandals who deface communities.

