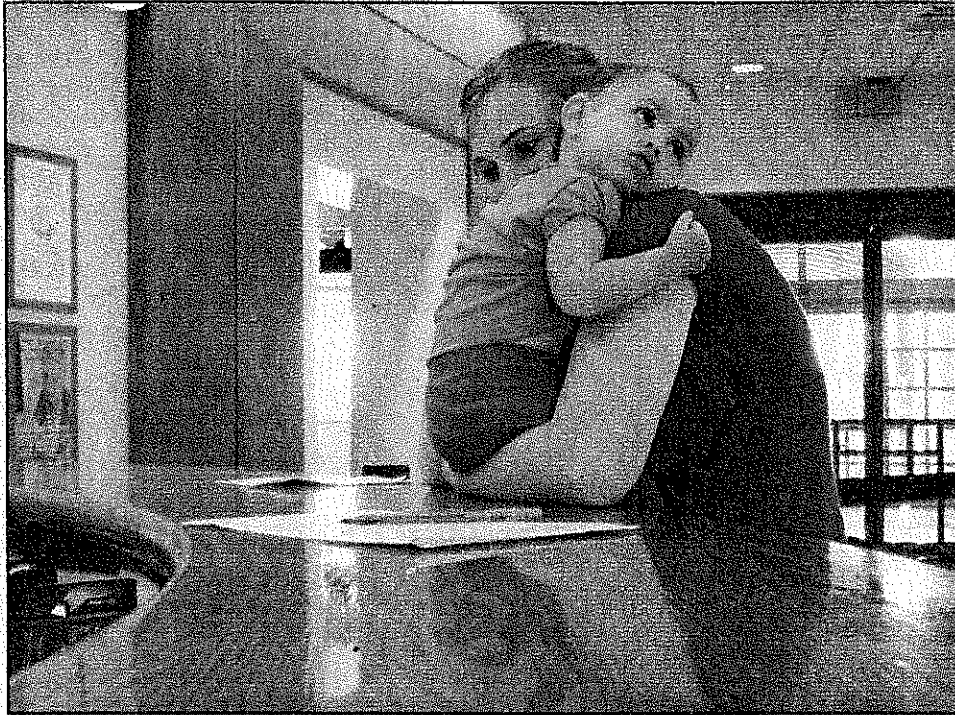


# A health decision



Rick Roach/RRoach@TheReporter.com

Micheala Te'O of Vacaville holds her 16-month-old daughter, Abigail, while waiting Monday in the lobby of NorthBay Medical Center in Fairfield.

## Visitor policy to change

By Danny Bernardini

*DBernardini@TheReporter.com*

A few days after two Vacaville schools closed their doors over fears of an H1N1 outbreak, one local health care provider is now changing its practices regarding who may visit hospitals.

Starting today, NorthBay Healthcare will no longer allow visitors under the age of 16 inside any of its Fairfield or Vacaville hospitals for visitations. This decision was made in response to the death of a Vacaville 6-year-old who died Oct. 18 and was later found to have had the H1N1 virus, or swine flu.

The Browns Valley first-grader died in the VacaValley Hospital emergency room after suffering flu-like symptoms for

■ See **Visitor**, Page 11A



**"... we have to put the safety of the patients first, and the safety of those who will be visiting ..."**

**— Dr. Donald Denmark**

## Sebelius: ample vaccine

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius said Monday the H1N1 (also known as swine flu) vaccine "is coming out the door as fast as it comes off the production line."

But at the same time, she acknowledged delays in getting a sufficient supply for all those demanding it.

"We were relying on the manufacturers to give us their numbers and as soon as we got numbers we put them out to the public. It does appear now that those numbers were overly rosy," Sebelius said in one interview. "We do have a vaccine that works," she said. Sebelius said the immune response is working faster

■ See **Vaccine**, Page 11A

# Senate bill to include option

By David Espo

*AP Special Correspondent*

WASHINGTON — Health care legislation heading for the Senate floor will give millions of Americans the option of purchasing government-run insurance coverage, Majority Leader Harry Reid announced Monday, although he stopped short of claiming the 60 votes needed to pass a plan steeped in controversy.

Reid, D-Nev., said individual states would have the choice of opting out of the program.

His announcement was cheered by liberal lawmakers, greeted less effusively by the White House and noted with a noncommittal response by Democratic moderates whose votes will be pivotal.

Sen. Olympia Snowe of Maine, the only Republican to vote with Democrats on health care so far this year, issued a statement saying she was "deeply disappointed" in the approach the Democratic leader had chosen.

Reid said, "While the public option is not a silver bullet, I believe it's an important way to ensure competition and to level

■ See **Senate**, Page 11A

## Crashes claim 14 Americans

By Robert H. Reid and Heidi Vogt

*Associated Press Writers*

KABUL — A U.S. military helicopter crashed Monday while returning from the scene of a firefight with suspected Taliban drug traffickers in western Afghanistan, killing 10 Americans including three DEA agents in a not-so-noticed war within a war.

Four more troops were killed when two helicopters collided over southern Afghanistan, making it the deadliest day for U.S. forces in this country in more than four years.

■ See **Crashes**, Page 11A

# Vaccine ...

Continued from Page 1A  
than officials anticipated.

Appearing Monday morning on nationally broadcast news shows, she said officials now have a supply of about 16.5 million doses of the vaccine, while conceding that's millions of doses below the amount needed.

Sebelius said she couldn't predict just how widespread the virus will be. Roughly a thousand people have died from it so far in the United States. But she also said officials do not believe there is yet any cause to close down schools and cease other daily activities.

President Barack Obama declared a health emergency over the weekend to give hospitals and health professionals more leeway from federal regulations to respond to the illness. And on Sunday, Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky said Congress would be happy to provide additional support and money

on a bipartisan basis, if the need arises. Said Sebelius: "If we had found the virus a little earlier we could have started a little earlier."

Asked what advice she would give to people who have waited futilely in line for shots, the secretary replied, "I want them to come back." "I hope that people aren't discouraged," she said. "I know it's frustrating to wait in line and particularly if you end up with no vaccine. We wish this could have been smoother, that we had a larger supply. We knew it would come in waves."

Sebelius sought to assure people that eventually there will be enough supplies "for everyone."

Dr. Anne Schuchat, who heads the Immunization and Respiratory Diseases Division of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said it's hard to predict how long the H1N1 wave will continue, so even getting vaccinated a few months from now — when vaccine supplies are more plentiful — won't be too late.

expected was lost, staffers recommend an additional full-time position be cut to help balance the books. This is in anticipation of continued losses this fiscal year — and more next year.

Building permits have been reduced by one-half compared to the last five-year average.

continue to be affected.

Another aspect for the division is the increase in numbers of requests for extensions on existing building permits, as property owners slow their rate of work on projects.

The supervisors meet at 9 a.m. in chambers, 675 Texas St., Fairfield.

## Statement on Corrections

The Reporter is dedicated to the pursuit of clear and accurate reporting. Confirmed errors will be corrected in this space, if you have concerns about a story or this policy, call 448-2200 during weekday business hours.

## CALIFORNIA LOTTERY

### FANTASY 5

8, 13, 17, 31, 32

### DAILY 3

#### EVENING DRAW

9, 8, 8

#### AFTERNOON DRAW

0, 5, 6

### DAILY 4

3, 9, 1, 2

# Visitor ...

Continued from Page 1A  
a few days. As of press time, no official cause of death has been announced by the Solano County Coroner's Office.

NorthBay made the announcement Monday and posted a message on YouTube.com, with Dr. Donald Denmark, vice president of medical affairs, explaining the decision. That message can be found at <http://www.youtube.com/user/NorthBayHealthcare>. The hospital's Web site, [www.northbay.org](http://www.northbay.org), also features an entire section devoted to flu prevention.

"This will be inconvenient for some families, and perhaps frustrating," Denmark said in a press release. "But we have to put the safety of the patients first, and the safety of those who will be visiting a facility that has a growing number of patients with the

flu."

Denmark said there may be visiting accommodations made for those under the age of 16 with extenuating circumstances.

For those wanting more information about H1N1, a public meeting is being held from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday in room 1, 275 Beck Ave., Fairfield. Hosted by Solano County Mental Health, Dr. Michael Stacey (deputy health officer with Solano Public Health) will be on hand to discuss the virus, give an update and talk about the public response.

Browns Valley Elementary — where the deceased child attended — plans to reopen and resume a normal schedule today after dismissing classes Friday and Monday, said Robin Cox, health education manager for Solano County Public Health.

Vacaville Christian High School resumed classes on Monday after locking the doors on Thursday after a third

of the staff and more than 40 students reportedly suffered from swine flu.

All those schools surrounding Browns Valley have been monitored and there hasn't been a drop off in attendance, and, in some cases, attendance was up, said Cox. Because of this, Public Health is confident there wasn't an outbreak. As expected, she said, there was a large jump in those patients showing up at clinics to receive treatment.

Also seeing an increase in patients was Kaiser Medical Center in Vacaville, one of the first health-care providers to receive shipments of the H1N1 vaccine. Jim Karumpus, a Kaiser public information officer, said the newly opened facility gave out more than 2,000 vaccinations on Friday alone.

As for limiting visitations, he said Kaiser is currently re-evaluating its daily procedures, but is not restricting visitors at this time. He said all hospi-

itals have been equipped with respiratory etiquette stations with masks, tissues and hand sanitizers to help educate those who visit.

"There won't be any answers today, but it may be this week," Karumpus said. "If you feel not well, please don't visit anyone in the hospital."

For Sutter Solano Medical Center, a three-leveled system has been put in place to identify the risk of those visiting the facilities. According to Sutter Neilson, Sutter spokesman, Level 1 is routine visitation; Level 2 is restricted visitation; and Level 3 is no visitation.

Sutter is currently at Level 1 and is asking visitors who are ill not to visit patients. If staff sees someone with flu-like symptoms, they approach them and give them the appropriate advice, Neilson said.

He added that the situation is constantly monitored and Sutter is working with other health-care providers and Solano County to stay up to date.