



Sports DHS golfers dominates on the links



# City says drought surcharge isn't likely

By Dave Ryan

ENTERPRISE STAFF WRITER

Despite current water use restrictions, there are no immediate plans to have a drought surcharge added to Davis' water rates, city staff said this week.

Last week, the Davis City Council adopted water-use restrictions in accordance with the State Water Resources Control Board's emergency regulations of July 28.

## Learn more

**What:** Davis City Council meeting

**When:** 6:30 p.m. Tuesday

**Where:** Community Chambers at City Hall, 23 Russell Blvd.

**Watch it live:** Comcast Channel 16, AT&T U-Verse Channel 99 or on the city's website at [www.cityofdavis.org/media](http://www.cityofdavis.org/media)

Among more urgent everyday water-use rules, the state adds a goal of 30 percent water conservation for utilities the size of Davis' operations. That's a step up from the previous 20-percent voluntary reduction goal that Davis — and a raft of other cities in the state — have yet to meet.

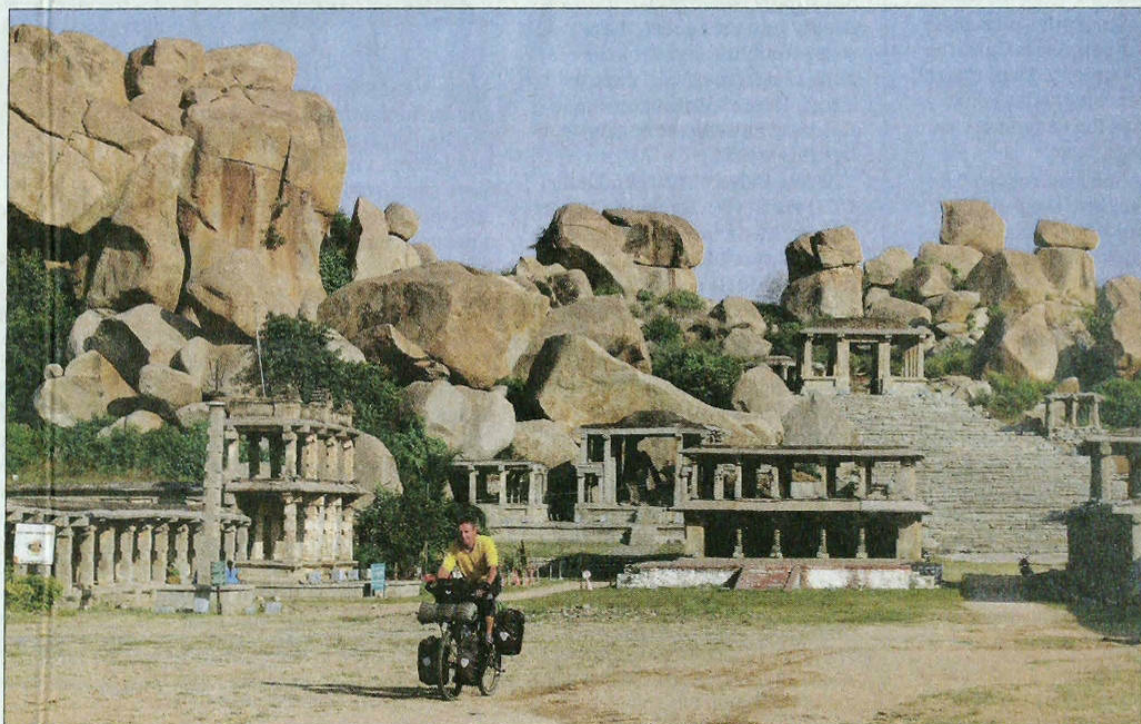
While Davis water customers have cut their water use by 14 percent compared to earlier years, many cities actually have increased their

water use during the drought, according to media reports.

Davis adopted water-use restrictions limiting outdoor irrigation to certain days of the week for odd- and even-numbered homes, assuming their timers could adjust to specific days of the week. Residents with odd-numbered mailing addresses can water only on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays; residents with even-numbered mailing

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## Experts outline declining mental



COURTESY PHOTO

A bumpy dirt road leads to ruins in southern India, which Peter Smolka toured last December. He pedaled into Davis on Wednesday as part of his around-the-world bike ride. Next week, he'll take off for San Francisco.

# Around the world ... ... on just two wheels

By Elizabeth Case

ENTERPRISE STAFF WRITER

Flying feels too fast for Peter Smolka, so when he crosses oceans, he prefers to take a boat.

The rest of the time, he pedals.

Last March, Smolka, 54, left his home in Erlangen, Germany, to bike around the world for the second time. Twenty friends followed him out, three planned to see him to Vladimir, Russia, the first of Erlangen's sister cities. Smolka carries a letter from the mayor to each of the eight cities, including Riverside.

The weather usually warms up by March, Smolka said, but that first morning, he awoke to 8 inches of fresh snow.

"We were always cycling with the edge of



ELIZABETH CASE/ENTERPRISE PHOTO

Peter Smolka carries 90 pounds of gear on his bicycle. He arrived Wednesday in Davis and will stay a week.

winter," he said.

Twenty thousand miles later and in considerably warmer weather, he rolled into Davis, arriving on Wednesday to stay for a week with Ulrike

Kreutzer, the sister of a friend from Germany.

Smolka took his first bike tour when he was 17, a three-week trip and the only time he traveled with a friend. Since then, he

has ridden alone, pushing 80 or 100 miles a day. His record, in his early 20s when "it was about the sport," was 227 miles, burning pavement from 6 a.m. until midnight.

In 2000, Smolka left on his first tour of the world, heading south from Germany through Africa. From Capetown, he sailed across the Atlantic in a small boat with a man who needed an extra hand, landing in Rio de Janeiro.

He finished in 2004 and published "Rad ab!," a book about his journey. A decade later, Smolka couldn't stand to sit behind a desk anymore, so he quit his job as a software engineer at Siemens and announced a second world tour.

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# WORLD: No major mishaps mar trip

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"They would have given me two years of unpaid leave, but I told them that wasn't enough," he said.

He doesn't have a wife or children — "That would be impossible with this life" — but his mother, sister and brother live in Germany. Sometimes his brother joins him on the road for a couple of weeks or months.

After Russia, Smolka headed southeast to India, traversing 4,000 miles to one of Siemens' major offices. While riding in India, families on motorbikes would stop and ask him questions, sometimes 50 people in a day. He hated being a celebrity.

"If you're no one, you might want to be George Clooney," Smolka said. "But if you're Clooney ..."

He shook his head. In China he communicated entirely by "hand and foot" — most of the time he could point at other diners' meals and ask for a bowl. But one time, he arrived in late afternoon, before anyone else had sat down to eat. The woman took him around the back and pointed at the chickens. He held up one finger, for one serving, but she brought him out an entire chicken. Another time he mistook horns for shrimp — but said they tasted mostly the same anyway.

Perhaps Smolka returns to the road because the road has treated him well. He's never had a major incident — kids stole a bottle of Coca-Cola off his bike in Pakistan, a pair of socks in Africa. He's been pick-pocketed twice but he caught both thieves immediately.

On his first tour, in Afghanistan, he describes being chased off by rock-throwing villagers and



Snow covers the ground as Peter Smolka gets ready to pedal along China's Karakorum Highway during his around-the-world bicycle trip. He will describe his adventures at 3 p.m. Sunday at the U.S. Bicycling Hall of Fame, 303 Third St.

COURTESY PHOTO

then encountering families just minutes down the road who opened their homes, kitchens and hearts.

North America has proved the most hazardous place on his trips: His credit card information was stolen in Canada earlier this year and used to fund someone's trip to Las Vegas.

"I woke up a little when I came to North America," Smolka said. "People think it will be dangerous in Kazakhstan, in Russia. But it wasn't."

For the most part, he doesn't get lonely, doesn't miss home, looks out to the road and to the next day or next few weeks. He has more pressing matters to worry about than the future.

He loves learning about the culture and politics and daily lives of the people he meets. He learned to be wary of the way Western media represents whole peoples or lands: Ethiopia has a vibrant, varied landscape; he can't believe the Syrian people have been in a civil war for so long because they were so friendly when he

## Meet the cyclist

**Who:** Peter Smolka, who will talk about his second around-the-world cycling trip

**When:** 3 p.m. Sunday

**Where:** U.S. Bicycling Hall of Fame, 303 Third St.

rode through.

When he arrives in towns or weaves through mountains, the road captivates.

However, to people who want to follow in his treads, he has some advice.

"It's never your legs that get tired, it's your head," Smolka said. "Be prepared for long, boring road."

The world has changed since his first tour, and more people vacation in places that were off-limits when he rode through the first time. Mobile phones became ubiquitous, Internet reservations expected, tourism rampant.

"It's not always good, because the danger is that you are traveling with the Internet in your ear," he

said. "The world is so organized now."

He can read news from home, chat with friends in German, stay comfortable.

"The danger is that you stop communicating with the people where you are," Smolka said.

Smolka's trips are essentially dictated by only two things: visas and the weather. Visa limits have chased him out of countries, or left him trapped in Kazakhstan for four weeks. It's harder, now, to apply for travel permits on the road, so he has to ship his passport to an agency in Germany to ride through certain countries, like China and Iran.

"If it goes on like this, one day you won't be able to travel like I do anymore," Smolka cautioned.

In the Americas, however, he thinks he will mostly be able to show up at border crossings and pass on through. Next week he takes off for San Francisco, Bryce Canyon, then South America. He'll reach the tip of the continent in a year and a half, then, hopefully, sail across the Atlantic, toward Africa, toward home.

# WALTON: Met his wife while stationed in New Zealand

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"I think that's one of the main things about Bill," said his son-in-law, Doug Peckham. "He is able to pass down this ability to communicate on a level that is more than just words."

Peckham experienced this first-hand when he, along with his wife and son, joined Bill and his wife Gloria on a trip to Tahoe about 15 years ago.

They were visiting Camp Richardson, a resort where Bill and his band had played one summer when he was in his early 20s. As they were taking a tour of the extravagant Scandinavian building, he came across an old grand piano — one that he remembered playing.

"He sat down and immediately started playing all these tunes from the 1930s," Peckham said.

The way the 80-something-year-old played not only surprised his fellow tourgoers, but also seemed to move them to another time period.

"It's kind of like the whole environment came to life as being in the 1930s again, like you were actually there," Peckham said.

Walton passed on his love for music to his four children — William Jr., Brenda, Tracy and Robin — who took lessons in guitar, piano and flute.

"Look at the way they turned out — talents," Walton said. "I can't imagine anyone having a family more wonderful than ours."

Walton takes pride in being a family man and said he would like to be remembered for being a good dad and helpful to his family. This carefree and joyous attitude may stem from his experiences in World War II that gave him a new outlook on cherishing life.

"When you survive those kinds of things, you kind of think everything else isn't a big deal," Peckham said.

Brenda added, "(He's) a very optimistic man who never seems to worry about anything, which is probably one of the secrets to his longevity!"

As a young man, Walton was drafted into the U.S. Army. After a number of months, he was transferred to work for the Army Air Forces signal corps as a Morse code operator.

turning mere dots and dashes into letters and sentences.

At this time, Walton was stationed in New Zealand, where he was introduced to his wife-to-be, Gloria.

"I was just so happy to meet her. She was just gorgeous," Walton said. "I proposed marriage and we became engaged."

They married the following year on July 3, 1943.

Walton spent the next year or so doing radio transmissions in Tinian, part of the Mariana Islands group. But it wasn't until March of 1946, after he had been discharged and returned to Sacramento, that the couple was reunited again.

As Gloria raised their four kids, Bill worked in sales, first for William A. Rapp Company, which sold blinds and window shades, and then for floor-covering distributor B.R. Funsten Company.

The couple became involved in their community, repeatedly volunteering at the Sacramento Jazz Jubilee and attending their local church. They also frequented the Mondavi Center for its array of performances.

"They were probably there once a week looking at a dance, hearing a recital or listening to jazz music," Peckham said.

Walton lives in Atria Covell Gardens in Davis, where his family is able to visit him frequently.

He has developed peripheral neuropathy, which has affected his ability to play piano, but Bill still finds ways to enjoy music.

Having lived such a full life, Walton has left an enormous impact on multiple generations — not only his own, but those of his children and grandchildren.

"When you see somebody who has made decisions in their life in a way that is classy and made them in a kind and thoughtful way, we as people remember that," Peckham said.

Walton continues to provide guidance and support to his now-adult children and they look up to him for that.

"He's not a rock star or famous, but he has accomplished everything that a person would want to accomplish in his life," Peckham said. "He is loved by his kids and his friends and everybody

# WATER: City must collect enough revenue for system

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addresses can water only Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays.

There were other restrictions, including ordering restaurants to serve water only upon request and to use water-saving dishwashing spray valves.

Jack Niederhager, the

which anticipated water use reduction of between 20 and 40 percent, according to Matt Williams, a co-creator of a water rate on which the city based its new rate calculations.

However, according to a city staff report released Thursday, the city does face \$1.9 million in yearly revenue shortfalls even with only a 15-percent

To both impose or raise a surcharge, the City Council must declare the appropriate stage of water emergency, conduct a public hearing and then determine whether the surcharge is needed and how much of a surcharge it should impose.

UC Davis' decision to join the Woodland-Davis surface water project will reduce

The city clerk reported receiving only 21 written, unvalidated protests by Thursday from a pool of 16,650 water customers. Because that represents less than half the property owners, and it is unlikely that thousands of customers will show up to deliver protests in hand Tuesday, the council likely will be able to adopt the new rates.