

## CURRENT WEATHER

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Partly sunny  
63F

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## COLUMNISTS

Ronna Adler  
 Judith Allender  
 Dr. Bill Atwood  
 Dwight Barnes  
 Daniel Blodgett MD  
 Cathie Campbell  
 Tom Elias  
 Jim Flanagan  
 Elizabeth Gabriel  
 Grace Grady-Barnes  
 Bryan Greeson  
 Mike Hackworth  
 Al Joyal  
 Tony Krizan  
 Ed Lyons  
 David Richards  
 Earlene Ward

## FEATURES

### Local teen gets shopping spree wish granted

By [Denise Aday](#)

(Updated Friday, March 7, 2008, 12:50 PM)

"Danny is a normal, private kid," his father, Roman Zabicki, said. "He is 16 and he doesn't understand all the attention."

Danny's life was thrust into the public arena shortly after he was diagnosed with stage 4 Rhabdomyosarcoma in April 2006, and last Friday, volunteers from the Make-A-Wish foundation presented him with a gift.

After Danny's diagnosis, volunteers from the foundation asked Danny what his one big wish would be.

Some kids want to go on a dream vacation, they want to become a fireman for a day or they want to meet a celebrity. But Danny wanted something a little different.

In a letter to the foundation, Danny explained that friends, fun and family mean everything to him. He loves to cook, snowboard and just hang out with his friends. He has continued to live life large and do the things he loves, despite his treatment program. But in his letter Danny explained that cancer had stolen the entire snowboarding season from him last year, because it just hurt too much to stand and this year, he didn't want that to happen.

After thinking long and hard, Danny decided that he wanted to hit the powder and make movies that include his family, his friends and above all, he wants to show that cancer won't beat him.

He asked the Make-A-Wish folk for a special shopping spree and last Friday, they gave him his wish. Danny received a computer, video camera, headphones and backpack; everything he needs to make movies on the slopes.

Family friend Jeanne Ratchford updates Danny's CarePage every day.

"There is no doubt in his mind," Ratchford said. "He knows he is going to beat this."

Danny has a "Bite me cancer!" mantra that Crab Cakes employees have adopted as their theme for this year's Relay for Life team.

He is in the 52nd week of a 54-week treatment plan and preliminary tests show no signs of his cancer. However, he still faces many struggles. Tuesday his white blood cell counts were too low for him to receive his scheduled chemo, setting back his schedule.

Roman said people all over the world are praying for Danny.

"We have no way we can thank each of those people, but please know we are grateful for all your prayers," Roman said.



After a trying day, Danny Zibicki received gifts from the Make-A-Wish foundation last Friday. Volunteer wish granters Steve Hanke and Annette Allwood (seated) from Fresno presented Danny with his wish. Friends and family joined Danny at the presentation. Standing from left are Deena Brosi, Alex Ratchford, Laura Zabicki, Danny Zabicki and Ariel Campbell. Photo courtesy of Jeanne Ratchford

To follow Danny's progress, look for his DannyZab CarePage at [www.carepages.com](http://www.carepages.com).



Published every Wednesday!



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