**Come sit a spell**

Professor: Having places to relax helps build community

By Jeff Hudson

For the past 25 years, Mark Francis has been looking around Davis for "sittable space" — the kind of outdoor places where you can get off your feet, relax, talk with a friend, and watch the world go by. He’s finding a lot more sittable space these days — literally thousands of places to sit, where there only used to be a few hundred. And he’s convinced that Davis has become a better place to live as a result.

When Francis came to town in 1980, as a newly-hired professor of landscape architecture and environmental design at UC Davis, he was surprised at how few places he could find that encouraged people to put together in a community way outdoors. The sort of busy public places like Harvard Square in Cambridge, Mass. he’d studied while at the University at New York.

He approached the topic with both professional and personal interest. "I was a 38-year-old guy with a family," he recalled.

"I looked around Davis, and there was hardly anything to sit outside. I think there was an ordinance then that made it difficult to serve food outside. I kind of understood why: I was more concerned with climate, and no place to eat outside and enjoy the nice, balmy evenings."

"In 1980, the streets of the town were quiet — too quiet. My 2-year-old daughter said ‘Momma, where are all the people? Are they sick?’“

The downtown area looked different then. Central Park in Davis was once black square — half its current size — with Fourth Street continuing through from C Street to B Street. The other half of present-day Central Park was a drayage parking lot. The fledgling Davis Farmers’ Market took place on C Street by Davis Community Church, and didn’t have the tall, simple-yet-majestic overhead structure that now frames the event. Francis and several others conducted the "Downtown Davis Urban Ecology Study" in 1981-83. They mapped pedestrian use of downtown Davis on a 7,000-mile motorcycle ride from Florida to Alaska.

They called it a "silver tsunami" — a wave of aging Baby Boomers confusing into old age and straining social security, government programs and health care. It’s only going to get worse over the next three decades, and Davis City Councilman, president of the county Board of Education, who on Friday came sit a spell.

**Summit explores aging Boomers’ affect on society**

By Jonathan Edward

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**Woman hailed by lymphoma organization**

By Bruce Gallaudet

It was a labor love in honor of a family member.

Martha Bernauer of Davis, who spent much of the past three months working to raise funds and awareness for blood cancer research, has earned the Sacramento Leukemia and Lymphoma Society’s Woman of the Year Award.

“It was an honor and exciting to and my family, knowing her campaign like this help people with serious diseases and needs,” Bernauer said, adding that her niece Samantha Steenley was the inspiration.

Steenley was diagnosed nine years ago with cutaneous T-cell lymphoma, a slow-growing cancer that can be controlled with treatment, including medication and sunlight.

Fortunately, 85 percent of its cases See LYMHPOMA, Back page

**Biker follows his dream of riding across country**

By Elizabeth Kalibek

Rod Paschke, an electrical contractor from Woodland, is competing in the Hoka Hey Challenges — a 7,000-mile motorcycle ride from Florida to Alaska.

Rod Paschke leaves today on the Hoka Hey Challenge.

"We’re doing it for fun," Paschke said. "We want to challenge ourselves and see what we can do."

"I think it’s everyone’s dream to ride across the United States on a motorcycle, and if I don’t do it now, I’ll never do it," Paschke said.

"This is out of the box for me," said Paschke. "I think it’s a challenge to ride across the United States on a motorcycle, and if I don’t do it now, I’ll never do it."

"This is out of the box for me," said Paschke. "I think it’s a challenge to ride across the United States on a motorcycle, and if I don’t do it now, I’ll never do it."
That's easy to make the point, Francis said. And they talked about the way the reality of this exists today. "I remember there was a vote by the Davis City Council. They decided not to build the downtown street (open which would have been called the Park in downtown). In fact, it was a 3-2 vote. They decided to keep the street open, and not favor closing the street, because the people wanted it.

The city of Davis hired landscape architect Jim Francis to design a public garden that would tie the downtown business area into the broader green area of Central Park, which had a landscape architect Jim Zoethout in 1983. In plan and design the city asked the landscape architect Francis to design a public garden. It was given to the architect Francis. Francis became a resident of Davis about 30 years ago. He has been working with the city of Davis since 1990. Francis has been involved in the design of the E Street Plaza (which would be called the Davis Commons). He is a resident of Davis and a long-time resident of the city. Francis has been involved in the design of the E Street Plaza (which would be called the Davis Commons).

Francis also worked on another study — The Davis Commons — during the planning of the city, connecting the green space's right to the center of downtown. The study found 2,276 sittable spaces downtown, and it's partly the nature of the study that he's now in Norway, where he has his home in Aggie Village, and he's now in Norway, where he has his home in Aggie Village.

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