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Antioch teen survived Sunday crash

By Hilary Costa [Contra Costa Times \(mailto:hcosta@bayareanewsgroup.com?subject=Inside Bay Area: \)](mailto:hcosta@bayareanewsgroup.com?subject=Inside Bay Area:)

POSTED: 06/22/2010 03:39:28 PM PDT | UPDATED: 4 YEARS AGO

A 16-year-old Antioch boy initially reported killed in a fiery auto accident Sunday is actually alive, according to the California Highway Patrol and hospital officials.

John Sellem, 16, is in fair condition at UC Davis Medical Center in Sacramento.

The CHP reported Sunday that Sellem was severely injured in an accident that morning and had died while being transported to UCDMC via helicopter. On Tuesday CHP spokesman Tom Maguire said his agency had been incorrectly told by the hospital that Sellem had died.

Medical center spokeswoman Karen Finney could not immediately comment on how the miscommunication happened.

The car accident occurred about 10:35 a.m. Sunday when a blue 2005 Toyota Sienna minivan, with Sellem as a passenger, took the Port Chicago Highway exit from eastbound Highway 4, then struck and crashed through the offramp guardrail.

The minivan went down an embankment to a transition road to southbound Highway 242, where it collided with a white Ford F-150 pickup truck. The van came to rest in the Highway 242 median and caught fire.

The van driver, 19-year-old Antioch resident Eric Tran, was treated for moderate burns. Sellem's 17-year-old brother, who also goes by John, was also a passenger in the van. He was treated at UCDMC for burns and is now home recovering, according to a family friend.

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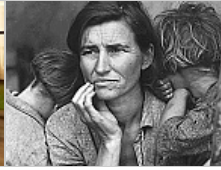
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