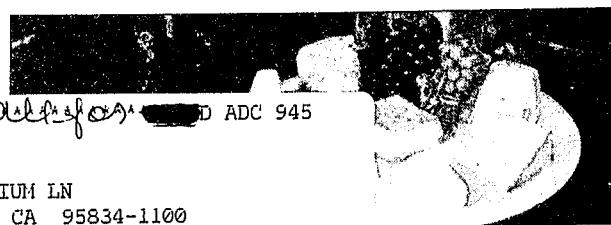


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LSU, Oregon
post wins
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Say Cheese
Selecting the
cheese can
See Page

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the Napa Valley Register

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Wednesday

January 2, 2002

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He's Napa's number one ... baby, that is

Crystal Bueno
kisses her
daughter Gloria
who was born
Tuesday at 1:43
p.m. at Queen of
the Valley Hospital.
Weighing in at 9
pounds 15 ounces,
Gloria was the third
Napan of the new
Year.



DAVID ELKINS PHOTO

By SCOTT HANKINS
Register Correspondent

The year 2002 started with a bawl in Napa County but new parents weren't quite as vocal.

Unlike 2001 when there weren't any babies born until Jan. 4, Napa County has a handful of babies who will always carry the birth date of Jan. 1.

A Napa woman gave birth to a baby at Kaiser Permanente Hospital in Vallejo at 8:45 a.m., making her child the first Napan to be

born this year.

But citing privacy concerns, the mother didn't want to discuss her new bundle of joy with the press.

Another baby was born less than two hours later at St. Helena Hospital. The little guy came into this world at 10:35 a.m. and was the first child actually born in Napa County.

Here's what we can tell you about this bouncing baby boy: Nothing. The St. Helena mother had the same concerns as her Napa counterpart.

The once proud tradition of publicizing the

first birth of the New Year is becoming one of those customs, like vinyl records and muscle cars, lost to an age we remember as more innocent.

The annual picture of an exhausted mom, with a huge smile covering her face, holding the bundled baby, is being replaced by a polite statement: "The mother does not wish any information to be released."

The City of Napa had to wait until the afternoon of Jan. 1 to receive its first new res-

See BABY, Page 4A

Mysterious holiday elf visits Napa



DAVID ELKINS PHOTO

Cornelia Hunt keeps warm with Max underneath a quilt that was delivered to her just before Christmas. Undisclosed "elves" brought quilts and bags of treats to Hunt and the other residents of the Laurel Manor Apartments in which elderly and handicapped tenants primarily reside.

Seniors pleased by high quality gifts

By NATHAN CRABBE
Register Staff Writer

A secret Santa brightened the holidays for elderly residents of Laurel Manor apartments, warming their hearts and laps with gifts of quilts.

In the weeks before Christmas, Laurel Manor residents received a mysterious note, telling them that on Dec. 22: "Santa's little elf will deliver a very nice homemade gift for you to warm your

winter days."

On that date, the complex's 50 or so residents were presented with lap-sized quilts, each a different colored pattern. Resident Cornelia Hunt, 70, last week proudly showed off her quilt, colored with autumnal browns and yellows.

"It was the most delightful thing that's happened over here since I've lived here, which has been four years," Hunt said.

Hunt said she uses the quilt for her feet. She

wanted to bring attention to the quilt-givers because she's so grateful, though their actual identities are a closely guarded secret.

While a note delivered with the quilts identifies a Redwood Middle School 7th grader named Katie and her family as responsible, Laurel Manor manager Pat Knodle wouldn't provide further information.

See ELF, Page 4A

Six hurt in New Year's accident

By MARSHA DORGAN
Register Staff Writer

Six teenagers were hurt and the driver arrested for investigation of driving under the influence following a single-vehicle crash on a rain-slick roadway early New Year's Day.

The driver, Shawn Francis Healer, 19, of Napa suffered facial cuts and head trauma, according to California Highway Patrol Officer Mike Rasmussen.

He was treated at Queen of the Valley Hospital, released to the custody of the CHP and booked into the county jail for suspected felony DUI.

Five passengers in the 2000 Jeep Wran-

See ACCIDENT, Page 4A

St. Helena dodges flooding

Heaviest storms miss area

From Register Staff

Water levels are falling in St. Helena, avoiding dire predictions of a flood-filled morning.

Bert Johansson, St. Helena's police chief, said the level of the Napa River near the city crested at 4 a.m. and has been receding ever since.

"It was a non-event," Johansson said.

St. Helena experienced flooding of Lodi Lane in the middle of the night and a mudslide at Silverado Trail and Pratt Avenue. While some agricultural land was inundated by minor flooding, Johansson said, no homes were threatened.

The Napa River near St. Helena peaked

See FLOODING, Page 4A

Napa TV viewers without cable or satellite lose NBC programming

From The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — More than 100,000 San Francisco Bay area households, including those in the Napa Valley, have lost the chance to watch NBC unless they get cable or a satellite dish because the network's new local affiliate has a transmitter that is out of range of their antennas.

Station managers say they are working on improving the signal's reach, but in the meantime, many fans of "Friends" and the "West Wing" in the

nation's fifth largest television market will have to decide whether to spring for cable, or go without their favorite shows.

As of Tuesday, NBC dropped its affiliation with San Francisco-based KRON. NBC programming will now be aired on San Jose-based KNTV, which NBC bought in mid-December. KNTV's signal originates too far south to reach many Bay Area households.

See NBC, Page 4A



ASSOCIATED PRESS

A KNTV Channel 11 photographer's van leaves the station in San Jose Dec. 17 past a huge banner on the front side of the building. Tuesday's shift of NBC from KRON will leave most of the north Bay Area without clear reception of NBC programs unless they have a satellite dish or subscribe to cable services.



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