

Seniors

CALENDAR

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Needlearts. 9 a.m. to noon. Napa Senior Center; 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Rohlff's Manor. Call Adult School, 253-3594.

Music appreciation. 2:30 to 3:30 p.m., Concordia/Rohlff's. Call Adult School, 253-3594.

Napa Valley Genealogical and Biographical Library. Open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 1701 Menlo Ave., Napa. Call 252-2252.

Bus trips. Napa County Committee on Aging sponsors trips to Tahoe. Call 224-5121.

Seniors golf. Chimney Rock Golf Course. Tee off at 7:30 a.m.

THURSDAY

Care Giver Awareness/Coping With Your Aging Family Member. 7-9 p.m. Napa Senior Center, 1500 Jefferson St. Call Adult School, 253-3594.

Napa Valley Genealogical and Biographical Library. Open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 1701 Menlo Ave., Napa. Call 252-2252.

Napa County Historical Research Library and Museum. Goodman Library Building, 1219 First St., Napa, noon to 4 p.m. Call 224-1739.

Seniors crafts and cards. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Senior Center, 1500 Jefferson St., Napa. Bring a bag lunch. Call 257-6450.

Upper Valley Senior Citizens. 1:30 p.m., Carnegie Building, Oak and Adams streets, St. Helena. Call Louise Byrd, 965-2984.

FRIDAY

NVC Senior seminar. Napa Valley College senior seminars 9 to 11 a.m., Napa Senior Center, 1500 Jefferson St. Information 224-3611. All welcome. Guest speakers include: Earl Dale, WEDO Project, and Jenny Sercu talks about Napa Valley College offerings.

Grandparents as parents. Parent education class geared to the needs and concerns of grandparents who are raising, or are instrumental in raising, their grandchildren. Meeting Fridays through Nov. 22, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., Adult School, Room B-1, 2447 Old Sonoma Road. No fees. Information and registration, 253-3594.

Editor's note: Send Senior Calendar information to Marilyn Allen, P.O. Box 150, Napa, CA 94559 or fax to 224-3963.

Cost of Medigap policies jumps sharply for seniors

By HARRY DUNPHY
Associated Press Writer
WASHINGTON — A consumer group says many older Americans may have to cancel insurance policies covering health care costs that Medicare doesn't pay because their cost is climbing rapidly — commonly ranging between 20 percent and 40 percent.

With premiums on these supplemental policies, called Medigap, rising so fast, senior citizens will face difficult decisions on what they can afford, particularly if Congress decides to increase Medicare premiums next year, Families USA said Thursday.

Its executive director, Ron Pollack, called the survey's findings "truly astounding" and a "threat-

ening prospect for older Americans ... who are going to be squeezed out of the Medigap market."

About three-quarters of senior citizens have Medigap policies to cover items that Medicare does not, such as deductibles or prescription drugs.

Monthly Medicare Part B premiums are scheduled to rise by \$1.30, or 3 percent, next year to \$43.80. The Part B program helps beneficiaries pay for doctor visits, hospital outpatient service, laboratory work, equipment

and supplies. The premium is determined by a formula, with recipients paying 25 percent of the cost.

Medicare Part A deductibles, which cover hospital stays, are rising by \$24, from \$736 this year to \$760 in 1997. This deductible is the only cost for a recipient's first 60 days in a hospital. After that, the cost in 1997 will be \$190 a day for the next 30 days and \$380 a day for the 60 days after that.

In a related development, government figures show that federal

costs of Medicaid, the medical program for the poor and disabled, rose only about 3 percent in the fiscal year ended Oct. 1 — a major slowdown in a program that has plagued state and federal budgets throughout the 1990s, USA Today reported in today's editions.

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Without your support, we will not be able to continue operating the Pumpkin Patch and Fruit Stand! We will not be there for you, or your children, or someday their children to enjoy.

I invite you to come out to the Pumpkin Patch this weekend and see for yourself what a nice addition to the Napa Valley our Pumpkin Patch offers to the community.

Please allow me to keep in operation by voting
YES on MEASURE Z

Thank you for your past patronage, and most of all your support in our time of need!