



**Weather watch**  
 High: 64° Low: 41°  
 Partly cloudy  
 Full report page D6

# Napa Valley Register

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**Monday, November 26, 2012**

**CONNECTIONS — C1**

A visit to Cuba is a step back in time



**LOCAL — A2**

Man arrested on suspicion of drug possession

**THE SPORTS PAGE — B1**

Football is big at Oakdale High

## College abandons early retirement idea

### Official: Savings would not outweigh impact on students

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Napa Valley College will not be offering early retirement incentives to employees, thanks in part to the passage of Proposition 30.

The board of trustees unanimously rejected the plan a week ago following a recommendation from the interim college president not to approve the program.

Earlier this year, the trustees authorized an "early

retirement incentive interest survey" to gauge how many employees would take early retirement if it were offered.

Out of 277 employees who were eligible for the program, 28 indicated they would take early retirement, Interim President Ron Kraft said. This would have reduced payroll expenses by \$153,000 for 2012-13. The total budgeted payroll for this academic year for all college employees is more than \$26 million.

Over a three-year period — if none of these 28 employees were replaced — the college could have saved close to \$2 million, but that scenario would have had a severe impact on students and the mission of the college, Kraft said.

"The financial savings did not outweigh the severe impact the (early retirement incentive) would have had to student programs and services and the increased workload for remaining employees," he said.

Over the past four years, the college has lost about \$5 million in funding, which has led to course cuts and

fewer students.

If Proposition 30 — Gov. Jerry Brown's temporary tax initiative — had not passed, Napa Valley College's funding would have been cut by approximately \$1.73 million this spring. If that occurred, early retirement incentives would have been another option to help the college's ailing budget.

"As a cost-saving strategy, the (emergency retirement incentive) served as an emergency fiscal option that only made economic sense to use if Prop. 30 had failed," Kraft said.

The last time Napa Valley College offered an early retirement incentive was in

2010. Approximately 37 employees took early retirement, including 15 faculty members, said Laura Ecklin, dean of human resources. The estimated savings for the 2010-11 school year was \$800,000, and the savings have been ongoing since two-thirds of those positions have remained unfilled, she said.

Kraft said if employees took early retirement this year, the long-term incentive payouts would have totaled more than \$1 million over five years. Those funds would be better used by going toward student classes and programs, he said.

## Symbolic council vote spurns high court decision

### Members oppose 'corporate personhood'

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A month after it set a policy on how it would take positions on matters outside the city's jurisdiction, the Napa City Council has taken a symbolic position on a federal court case.

Last week, the council voted 4-1 to support a constitutional amendment to overturn the Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission decision. The ruling, issued in 2010 by the Supreme Court, found that corporations have the same First Amendment rights as individuals, the city said.

"I do not believe corporations are people or should be treated as individual people under the law," Councilwoman Juliana Inman said. "If we could draft a corporation to go to war, I might feel a little differently."

In July, a group of residents spoke during the public comment portion of the meeting, asking the council to issue a resolution in support of overturning the ruling that they said allows corporations to spend unlimited funds on political campaigns. Last week, three spoke urging the council to back the movement.

"We see Citizens United as an enormous threat to our democratic process by allowing corporations and donors to try to buy elections through unlimited funding," said Conchita Marusich. "Though Napa has not yet been touched by corporations, we see a clear and present danger to Napa through this flood of money."

Marusich and others said there have been instances when small-town elections have been bought by corporations and they believe Napa is at risk of falling victim to the same.

Councilman Peter Mott said while he is "generally hesitant" to take action on matters that don't immediately impact Napa, he saw donations made in the most recent election by

See COUNCIL, Page A3

## Clinic Ole to teach newborn nutrition

### Goal is to reduce obesity among Latino children

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A pilot program at Clinic Ole aims to help Latina mothers provide the proper nutrition for their newborn babies.

The Infant Nutrition for Latina Mothers program will have its first class in early December. The goal is to help educate new mothers about proper nutrition — specifically, the different developmental stages of feeding, which includes the recommendation of breastfeeding through the first year, and slowly introducing solid foods at six months. Mothers who choose not to breastfeed will be taught proper bottle-feeding techniques, said Kathy DeMaggio, Clinic Ole's director of planning and education.

Babies know when they're done feeding, but parents who bottle-feed sometimes become over-involved by pushing the baby to have more milk or formula, DeMaggio explained.

The baby will stop sucking on the bottle, but if a parent sees the bottle is still full, they'll sometimes try to get the baby to finish. DeMaggio said some parents will prop up the bottle so milk keeps dripping into the baby's mouth.

The result of improper bottle-feeding is that a child can become overweight, she said.

"With breastfeeding, you can't overdo it," DeMaggio said.

A baby will nurse when he or she is hungry and stop when feeling full, she said. The mother has less control over how much the baby takes in.

DeMaggio decided to create the curriculum for the new pilot program after hearing a presentation from the Latino Infant Nutrition Initiative, which works to prevent childhood obesity and support healthy growth and development.

According to the organization, inappropriate infant feeding and

See NUTRITION, Page A2



As the rainy season has arrived in California, plenty of mushrooms are expected to sprout in backyards and in the wilderness. Experts urge residents not to risk eating mushrooms they cannot identify with certainty. *Marilou Kelly/Register*

## Mushrooms can be pretty — and deadly

**KERANA TODOROV**  
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While wild mushrooms continue to draw the admiration of artists and photographers, they can also be deadly to eat.

Three elderly people died this month reportedly from eating a soup made with poisonous mushrooms picked in the backyard of a senior care facility in Loomis, Placer County, according to news reports.

So far this year, the California Poison Control system has received 11 calls involving Napa County residents suffering from mushroom poisoning — seven more than in 2011, said Stuart Heard, executive director of the California Poison Control System, a unit of the School of Pharmacy at UC San Francisco. The center provides callers with information and 24-hour help in case of poisoning.

Of the 11 calls, five involved

children 5 years or younger, Heard said. Four cases were either older children or teenagers up to 19 years of age, while the other two were adults. None of them involved a fatal case and only five people were hospitalized, according to the center.

Jennifer Henn, an epidemiologist at Napa County Public Health, said the county is not aware of any mushroom-related deaths in the past eight years.

Still, as the rainy season has arrived in California, plenty of mushrooms are expected to sprout in backyards and in the wilderness. And it does not take much rain for mushrooms to grow, Heard noted.

Heard has seen plenty of mushrooms, including in north Marin County where he lives, he said. "Now is the time for people to be very alert," he said.

Poisonous mushrooms look like most edible mushrooms

### Don't eat these

According to the Bay Area Mycological Society, the three most deadly mushrooms in California are:

- Amanita phalloides, an introduced species known as the "Death Cap." The mushroom is either green-yellow, tan, brown or white and can appear during the summer in irrigated areas.
- Amanita ocreata, known as the "Destroying Angel." The mushroom grows midwinter through spring under live oaks. The mushroom features white gills and spores.
- Galerina marginata, the "Deadly Galerina." The small mushroom grows on wood-rotting fungus. It has been confused with hallucinogenic mushrooms.

and eating wild mushrooms is always a risk. Most people are not experts in mushrooms and should not pick them in the wild, including those that grow in backyards, Heard said. That's what leads to tragedies, he said.

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## Dining to expand at Kennedy golf course

### Food services expected to boost revenue during winter

**HOWARD YUNE**  
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Facing a slide in business and revenue at its municipal golf course, Napa is entering a deal with the course's contractor in hopes of preventing the troubles from touching its

budget.

The City Council last week signed off on a new agreement with CourseCo Inc. to lease the Napa Golf Course at John F. Kennedy Park. Under the contract, the Petaluma firm's management agreement at Napa Golf, which runs through June 2014, will be transformed into a 10-year lease with two five-year options.

In exchange for passing payments from food and

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A recent deal between the city of Napa and the course contractor of Napa Golf Course at Kennedy Park will allow CourseCo Inc. to make improvements to the food pavilion, including a larger kitchen and a permanent tent structure. *J.L.*

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### Obituaries

Genevieve C. Finn,  
 John 'J.D.' Fuller,  
 Robin Odgen Hagerman

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