

Napa Valley Register

Napa could get pro ball

Silverados eye 2018 debut **SPORTS, PAGE B1**



Eye-catching comfort
Stylish new recliners **HOME & GARDEN, PAGE C1**

Almost full
Berryessa may reach capacity **NEWS, PAGE A2**



MOSTLY SUNNY 61 • 37 FORECAST, D4 | **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2017** | napavalleyregister.com | 50 cents

WINE INDUSTRY

Napa grapes up 28 percent

Market worth an est. \$683 million in 2016

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Thanks to an increased crop and prices, the value of Napa County's grape harvest rose 28 percent, from

\$533 million in 2015 to \$683 million in 2016.

At the same time, the average price per ton for Napa County grapes rose 7.8 percent to \$4,666 per ton, the highest in the state.

State and federal agriculture officials released the preliminary 2016 grape crop report midday Friday,

showing that the number of tons harvested in Napa County rose from 123,319 tons in 2015 to 146,557 last year, a 19 percent increase.

"I think it's all good news if you are a Napa grower," said Glenn Proctor, partner at the Ciatti Company.

Proctor said an abnormally light

crop in 2015 led to a strong demand for grapes in 2016.

"We saw a very active market and higher prices in 2016," in Napa County, said Proctor. "They were motivated because of the shorter 2015 crop."

Proctor predicts that the demand for Napa grapes will

continue.

"We're already seeing early activity from buyers looking to source grapes this year for 2017," he said. "Even though the crop is up, we don't think that will affect buying."

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COMMERCE



J.L. SOUSA, REGISTER

Jake Scheideman, who owns St. Helena Cyclery, has opened Napa Valley Velo at the South Napa Century Center.

New tenants for Century Center

Trio of fresh faces slated for shopping complex

JENNIFER HUFFMAN AND DAVE STONEBURG

A trio of new tenants are coming to the South Napa Century Center on Gasser Drive, including a bike shop that opens as soon as Friday plus an ice cream eatery called CREAM and a "modern" Thai food restaurant called Chetophon Thai.

Jake Scheideman's Napa Valley

Velo bike shop will be the first to debut.

Cycling enthusiasts will be familiar with Scheideman—the St. Helena man owns St. Helena Cyclery.

Scheideman said he's wanted to open a bike shop in Napa for 20 years.

"We've enjoyed great success in St. Helena for 25 years, but my Napa customers — 10 to 15 percent of his business — "have been begging me to come to Napa for years," he said.

"I am able to finally respond to this demand, and thrilled to do so."

Napa Valley Velo is named after an elite bike racing team he and others sponsored years ago, said the business owner.

Brands for sale at Napa Valley Velo will include a full line of Trek bikes, Pinarello road bikes, Pivot mountain bikes, Public bikes, Cleary bikes for youngsters and Electra, which are electric-assist bikes.

Both Electra and Trek build

electric-assist bikes, designed for people to ride around town, on the Napa Valley Vine Trail or even to commute with. Those bikes "are opening a new niche for people who are intimidated riding longer distances. These bikes help them get out and ride without the intimidation," Scheideman said.

The electric motors are always working and riding one feels like someone is pushing you from behind.

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INFRASTRUCTURE

St. Helena reconsiders water rates

Residents ask for new long-term plans

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ST. HELENA — A group of residents who came together in opposition to the city's recent water and sewer rate hikes are hoping the City Council takes the first steps next Tuesday toward reconsidering.

St. Helena Citizens for Fair Water and Wastewater Rates is urging the City Council to form an ad hoc committee to reevaluate the rates and consider financing more of the city's capital improvements through long-term bonds rather than cash. Critics say the proposed rates are unnecessarily high because the city is relying too much on cash to fund expensive projects up front within the next few years.

The new group's second meeting drew about 80 people this week. It was held at Vineyard Valley Mobile Home Park, whose residents would see their rates more than double under the currently proposed rate structure.

Pat Dell, a resident of Vineyard Valley and one of the founders of the group, said the campaign against the rate hikes isn't being driven just by seniors on fixed incomes. A petition urging the city to reevaluate the rates had received 723 signatures as of Monday, with 134 coming from residents of the middle-class Sylvaner neighborhood, she said.

Rather than pursuing a referendum to put the proposed

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J.L. SOUSA, REGISTER FILE PHOTO

Napa County will be creating a master plan for new uses for its former Health and Human Services campus on Old Sonoma Road.

HOUSING

Balancing history and housing

County eyeing options for old HHS campus

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Napa County turned to residents to help figure out how to fit 190 to 220 apartments and townhouses onto an Old Sonoma Road site that has three century-old buildings — and whether the buildings should stay.

The county moved its Health and Human Services Agency from the site last summer. County supervisors have said the

8.6 acres of county-owned land in the city of Napa is perfect for affordable housing.

Most of the former Health and Human Service Agency buildings will be demolished without controversy. Three Mission Revival and Prairie-style buildings along the crescent driveway that were once part of the county infirmary are different.

"I just want to state upfront — so everyone understands — the historic buildings have been determined eligible for the National Register," Napa City Councilwoman Juliana Inman said.

But others see freeing up more

room at the site for affordable housing as the pressing need. Still others want to make certain whatever is built fits in with the existing Old Sonoma Road neighborhood.

All of these forces converged this week during a two-hour evening workshop at Harvest Middle School attended by about 140 people. Some lived in the neighborhood; some were affordable housing advocates who lived elsewhere.

"Tonight is really about the trade-offs that will come,"

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OBITUARIES | PAGE D2

Jacqueline Eigen, Stephen Thomas Mann, James J. Orrock, William Frederick Ratter, Donald R. Schmitt

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