



## Bowler in fast lane

Milne earns trip to nationals **SPORTS, PAGE B1**

## What is feng shui?

Grace and architecture **HOME & GARDEN, PAGE C1**

## Burn permits suspended

Cal Fire bans plant debris fires **NEWS, PAGE A2**



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### NAPA COUNTY GRAND JURY

# Child Abuse Hotline critiqued

Better response times and training needed by CWS response unit

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It may be the first place to report suspected child abuse or neglect in the county, but if residents don't know about Napa's



Slusher

Child Abuse Hotline, they won't be calling it. The 2016-2017 Napa County grand jury took interest in the hotline following 3-year-old Kayleigh Slusher's murder in 2014. Kayleigh's mother, Sara Lynn Krueger, and

her mother's boyfriend, Ryan Scott Warner, were recently convicted of beating the girl to death. Their sentencing is scheduled for July 27.

Although Slusher's death is what ignited their interest in Napa's Child Abuse Hotline, the grand jury said that it wasn't their intent to investigate one child's death but to examine efforts to protect all children in the com-

## Napa Child Abuse Hotline:

- 707-253-4261

- Toll-free at 800-464-4216

For more information, visit [countyofnapa.org/ChildWelfare](http://countyofnapa.org/ChildWelfare).

community. The grand jury found that despite well-intentioned and com-

mitted staff, the current operation of the hotline is inefficient, untimely and contributes to worker burn-out. The grand jury also found that public awareness of the hotline is inadequate.

Carlos Solorio, management analyst with the Napa County Executive Office, said that he was not able to comment on the report's

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### DEVELOPMENT



J.L. SOUSA, REGISTER

The Napa County Planning Commission was recently informed that southern Napa County is facing a shortage of industrial land.

# Industrial land shortage looms

Businesses needing property are finding few places to buy

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Napa County Planning Commissioners heard Wednesday that South Napa County industrial land is at a premium, even if it might not appear that way at first glance.

This is the grittier side of wine country, the place where companies make corks and barrels and store wine in sprawling ware-

houses. It is also home to trucking companies, auto dismantling yards and other blue collar ventures.

The trick for would-be newcomers is finding space at this particular point in time, William Kampton of Colliers International told commissioners. Kampton began his real estate career in 1987 and has focused on Napa County properties.

"When you drive up, you see all this land around you," Kampton said. "You see land everywhere, the vineyards, you see some industrial lands. You see all

of this, but we are really at a critical shortage for industrial land."

In a way, Napa County would appear to be facing a stealth shortage.

Southern Napa County has 14 million square feet of industrial space in the county's airport industrial area, American Canyon and southernmost city of Napa. The vacancy rate is just about zero, Kampton said.

Vacant industrial land in parcels 50 acres and larger exists, but is unavailable for purchase because the owners for various reasons are holding on to it, he

said. Other vacant land in the western Green Island Road area has limitations such as no sewer and water service.

Still other land has approvals for buildings that for various reasons have yet to be constructed. Signs to lease space can be seen in vacant fields.

"Right now, when a user calls me and says, 'Hey, I'm looking for five to 10 acres where I can build a 100,000-square-foot facility or maybe 200,000 square feet,' there is no land to sell them,"

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### HOUSING

# Napa looks at mini-apartments

Experiment will try to expand housing

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The vacancy rate is less than 2 percent. The waiting list for rent vouchers is some 9,500 families long. So what more can Napa do to add something - anything - to its chronically strapped housing supply?

Officials hope that a small project can become the seed of a new solution.

The city's latest idea is an experiment that looks toward an existing resource - spare bedrooms in single-family houses that may be partitioned into small rental apartments affordable to lower-income tenants.

If expanded to more homes, housing officials hope, the campaign may become a backstop to renters and owners alike - to Napa workers whose wages fall far short of inflated local rents, and homeowners needing extra income or facing old age.

Napa - one of 50 midsize U.S. cities partnering with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation in pilot programs to aid low-income households - will launch the Junior Unit Initiative Program, which aims to create at least 15 subsidized apartments within existing homes. The City Council approved funding for the Napa pilot on Tuesday.

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J.L. SOUSA, REGISTER

Salvador Creek flows near the Jefferson Street/Trower Avenue intersection. The city has awarded a contract to enlarge the storm drain along Trower, west of Jefferson, that dumps into the creek.

### PUBLIC WORKS

# Upgrades coming to Trower

First new drainage, then fresh asphalt

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Work will soon begin to protect a major north Napa route from wintertime overflows.

On Tuesday, the City Council approved a \$1.98 million bid to install a wider stormwater drainage pipe along Trower Avenue, from the Salvador Creek crossing near Jefferson Street west to Lassen Drive. The proposal from Bay Pacific Pipelines Inc., a No-

vato company, was the lowest of three bids.

The drainage line will connect with an existing concrete culvert at Salvador Creek and also include catch basins, manholes and other supporting structures, according to Shannon Barcal, associate civil engineer. Construction is set to begin in mid-July and continue for three months, according to John Ferons, city senior civil engineer.

Extending about 2,000 feet down Trower, the new pipe will range from 42 inches in diameter upstream at Lassen to 60 inches

downstream at Salvador Creek, Ferons said. It will supplant aging, narrower pipes originally installed to serve suburban homes built in the 1950s and '60s.

A second, separate construction phase will add narrower pipes to channel stormwater from subdivisions to the new trunk line, a project expected to last two years.

The storm drainage upgrade won city approval last year and was put to bid this spring, but the original low bidder withdrew

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### OBITUARIES | PAGE D2

Dale Scott Allen, Maurice F. Holt, Eugene Bradbury Robinson, Christopher Robert Schuh

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