

Happy Holidays

Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah  
from your friends at the Napa Valley Register

Shining bright

Where to see Christmas lights HOME & GARDEN, PAGE C1

Union election upheld

Queen's protest denied NEWS, PAGE A2



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PUBLIC SAFETY

# New fees to pay off fire station

Nursing care facilities  
face higher charges  
due to call volume

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Two months after turning earth on Browns Valley's first fire station, Napa leaders are lining up its funding.

An ordinance approved by the city council on Tuesday will overhaul the fire and paramedic service fees Napa charges developers in a plan to help cover the cost for Fire Station No. 5 on Browns Valley Road and Laurel Street, where construction began in mid-October.

The changes, Napa's first

since 2008, will increase costs for some types of projects, cut the rate for multifamily housing and sharply raise the expense for nursing-care centers that officials say place the heaviest load of service calls, especially medical calls, on firefighters.

Napa estimates the total cost of the Browns Valley fire station at \$7.1 million, including construction, land, design and equipment. The station is intended to shorten response times in west Napa not only for fires but also for medical emergencies, eliminating the time lag of sending trucks and personnel from Station No. 1 downtown.

Through the fee increases, future projects are expected to

cover a 20-year, \$4.8 million loan with \$600,000 interest, the portion city officials say will cover the cost of protecting a growing number of homes and businesses.

New single-family houses will be charged at \$656 each, a 7 percent increase, while multifamily housing will see a 22 percent rate cut to \$589 per unit. Builders of new office space will pay \$317 per 1,000 square feet, a 92 percent jump.

But the most radical change will affect developers building centers for residential medical care, for which impact fees will more than double and possibly rise by far more.

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J.L. SOUSA, REGISTER

One of 60 piles, which will make up the foundation of Fire Station No. 5 on Browns Valley Road, is set into the ground on Wednesday afternoon. The piles will range in depth from 50 to 60 feet.

SHARING THE SPIRIT



J.L. SOUSA, REGISTER

Leslye Dellar, who has volunteered at Phillips Elementary School for about three years, works with a student on a writing assignment.

## From Fish Story to storytime: Dellar volunteers in school

Learning to read sets  
a child on a life path  
leading to success

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This story is part of the Register's annual holiday series about people making a difference in their communities.

Plenty of people know Leslye Dellar from her career in the restaurant industry.

Leslye and her husband Michael Dellar are two of the founders of Lark Creek Restaurant group, which formerly operated Fish Story in downtown Napa. She's also known for her flower arrangements at the restaurants.

However, in one Napa classroom, Dellar is known for something totally different — and arguably even more important.

For the past 20 years, Dellar has volunteered as a reading tutor—the past 10 in Napa classrooms, and most recently at Phillips Charter Elementary School.

"If you are lucky enough to

have a good life and good health, you definitely need to help people that aren't quite so lucky," she said. "You need to give back."

For about three years now, Dellar has worked with first grade students at Phillips helping them learn to read.

"It's wonderful to be in a classroom with them," she said. "I feel like I'm really accomplishing something there. I enjoy it so much. The kids are so sweet."

Dellar currently spends one morning a week at the school.

"The first thing they do is work on their morning message," which includes some writing and then math problems. Then Dellar sits with students while they read, helping them sound out words when necessary.

"Our students cheer every Monday when Mrs. Dellar walks into the classroom," wrote Sheri Blades, first grade teacher at Phillips school. "They are so excited to have her special attention."

"Each year she helps support 24 students in my class but she also has a few students who she works with individually to give

extra support and encouragement to."

Even those that have moved on to the next grades remember Dellar fondly, greeting and hugging her in the hallways, said Blades.

Education is very important to her, Dellar noted. "It's the answer to a lot of our problems."

Dellar has also been known to bring snacks and supplies for the students. It's natural to provide extras for the teacher and classroom, she said.

"I know from having two daughters that are teachers that a lot of that stuff comes out of their own pocket."

When asked why the kids seem to appreciate her so much, Dellar paused to think.

"I guess because I'm different from their parents and teachers. The teacher is with them all the time and she has to be a little more of a disciplinarian." Dellar doesn't have to take on that authority role.

"Maybe they get as much out of it as I do because I love being with them," said Dellar.

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TOP STORIES OF 2016: NO. 8

## Serious money issues plague Upvalley town

St. Helena voters OK  
half-cent sales tax to  
stabilize city finances

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ST. HELENA — The year started with one more disastrous financial revelation in the city of St. Helena, which spent much of 2016 trying to regain its fiscal footing.

However, 2016 ended on an optimistic note in St. Helena with the overwhelming passage of a sales tax measure that city officials say is a first of many steps toward stabilizing the city's finances after years of mismanagement.

The latest example involved the city's double-billing of grants related to its old flood

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project, which happened under the oversight of city staffers who later left St. Helena. While investigating previously discovered financial irregularities, current city officials uncovered case after case in which the same expenses had been charged to two separate funding sources: a grant from the state Department of Water Resources and a loan from the State Revolving Fund.

Please see MONEY, Page A5

TRIBUTES

## Supervisors say goodbye to colleagues

Praise for Luce who  
lost re-election bid

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Napa County supervisors said lingering "goodbyes" to Supervisors Mark Luce and Keith Caldwell and District Attorney Gary Lieberstein.

Luce lost his bid for a sixth term in November to challenger Ryan Gregory. On Tuesday, for the last time in his 20-year Board of Supervisors



Caldwell



Lieberstein

career, he voted on county decisions.

But first, the Board thanked the former Chevron environmental engineer for his public service.

Supervisor Brad Wagennecht, who on election night

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OBITUARIES | PAGE D2

Dorothy Carner, Alice Lucille Hodge-Dalessi, Gary Wayne Shearer, Carmen Williamson

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