

Napa Valley Register

Trump takes office

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Wife killer sentenced to prison

Hernandez gets 25 years to life; daughter witnessed stabbing

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A crowd of grieving and angry relatives packed a Napa Superior Court courtroom Friday morning for the sentencing of 45-year-old

Carlos Everto Vega Hernandez – the man convicted of stabbing his wife, Esperanza Vega, to death while their 12-year-old daughter was just steps away.

Following a jury trial in October, Hernandez was found guilty of first-degree murder and a special allegation that he used a deadly weapon when he killed his wife in their apartment on the 2800 block of Soscol Avenue



Hernandez

according to Register reports. When officers arrived, Hernan-

in 2013.

He was arrested after the couple's daughter, who woke up to her mother's screams, found her mother's dead body in the bathroom and called the police, Register reports.

dez was outside holding the knife. He was taken into custody after dropping it.

Hernandez was struggling with alcohol abuse, but had no alcohol in his system when he was arrested, according to a sentencing statement prepared by his attorney, Chief Deputy Public Defender Kris Keeley.

Days before her death Vega had contacted Napa's Department of

Child Support Services but left the office stating that she wanted to give her husband another chance and that he merely needed to stop drinking, Keeley said. The only reason he snapped, she said, was because he was overcome by emotion after his wife allegedly said that she was leaving him for someone else.

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MARIA SESTITO, REGISTER

Cole Joy, 9, holds a "Hate does not make America great" sign during the "Welcome to the Resistance Inauguration Day Demonstration" at Veterans Memorial Park in Napa on Friday night.

'Resistance Napa Valley' protests Trump inauguration

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Umbrellas in one hand and handmade signs in the other, at least 100 protesters gathered at Napa's Veterans Memorial Park on Friday night to display their "resistance" of a Trump presidency.

The "Welcome to the Resistance Inauguration Day Demonstration" was an indigenous-led ceremony that featured prayer, ceremonial drumming and a march through downtown Napa.

Anti-Trump signs abounded, but organizers said the real message was one of "love, solidarity,

and unification."

Leigh Ann Harmon, 50, of Napa said "solidarity" was the reason she attended the demonstration. Her sign read "None of us were rooting for you."

This was her first protest ever. "I had to do it," she said. "I think we have to resist and we

have to let all level of politics know that it's not right what he's proposing for environmental impact, for immigrants, for women, for the energy department, for the education department – I could go on and on."

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WINE INDUSTRY

Silverado winery receives county OK

Jasper Hill wines may top \$200 a bottle

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Napa County planners decided the proposed Sam Jasper Winery can be built to produce what the applicant calls "ultra-premium wines" along Silverado Trail northeast of Napa.

The County Planning Commission on Wednesday approved the winery targeted for 10.23 acres at 4059 Silverado Trail near Soda Canyon Road. Its decision came minus any long discussions about controversies.

"The small scale of the production is appropriate to the size of the site," Commissioner Anne Cottrell said.

Sam Jasper Winery will produce up to 20,000 gallons of wine annually. It can have up to 160 tasting room visitors weekly and 23 marketing events annually with a total of 550 people. More than 90 percent of the wine will be sold directly to consumers.

"The visitation and the gal-lonage all tie together with the project of producing wine at the \$200-a-bottle plus level," said applicant Chris Indelicato, who is also CEO of Delicato Family Vineyards. "In order to sell

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J.L. SOUSA, REGISTER

Napa city officials are discussing making changes to its downtown wayfinding signs, which have directed visitors toward local attractions since 2001.

DOWNTOWN

City looks to update signage

Today's signs put in before 2-way streets

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A set of street signs – dark green, trimmed with red, decked with circled arrows – has guided drivers through Napa and toward its major attractions for more than 15 years. But age and changes to the streetscape and tourist industry are leading the city to ponder how to freshen its

wayfinders for new buildings and future tourists.

City staff and the City Council have begun discussions on overhauling Napa's directional signs, which have been on display at various intersections since the early 2000s. While the project may include a change of design or size, the council's first moves on Tuesday aimed instead toward making sure the signs are in the right places – especially on streets recently switched to two-way traffic – and help visitors not

only find their destinations, but a place to park.

Since installing its first wayfinders in late 2001, Napa has posted about 40 such markers, all carrying the city name, grape-leaf logos and pointers toward the Napa Valley Opera House, Oxbow Public Market and other gathering places.

But the number of signs has dropped to about 28 as signs have worn out or been removed

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Harold V. Bergren, Geraldine Louise Bonds, Roy Erland Lundquist

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