



Weather watch
 High: 63° Low: 48°
 Partly cloudy
 Full report page D6

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Monday, December 3, 2012

Year 150 • No. 106

50 cents

CONNECTIONS — C1

Travelers witness seasonal polar bear gathering



LOCAL — A2

Bereaved families invited to candle lighting

THE SPORTS PAGE — B1

Ex-Crusher playing smart at USF

River, creeks stay within banks in city of Napa

Two people watch the Napa River flow beneath the Zinfandel Lane bridge near St. Helena on Sunday afternoon.
J.L. Sousa/ Register



Officials report 'trees down all over the place,' but no major damage

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Napa public safety officials were on "high alert" Sunday morning as they responded to repeated calls of downed trees and power lines and pockets of flooding from Saturday night's drenching storm.

Numerous roads were closed throughout the day from American Canyon to Calistoga. In Napa, the worst of the storm had passed by



around 9 a.m., said city spokesman Barry Martin.

"The bulk of the rain seems to have passed. It looks like we're on the back end of the storm," Martin said shortly after that time. "Some of our stream gauges are showing the flow rates declining. We're not

anticipating the creeks or the river to be out of their banks in Napa."

The city of Napa's corporation yard received 1.87 inches of rain from 9:30 a.m. Saturday through 9:30 a.m. Sunday. Mount Veeder received 3.16 inches in that same period. Mount St. Helena recorded the most rainfall in the county, collecting 3.94 inches of rain in the 24-hour period.

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County to benefit from false-advertising settlement

Sensa's weight-loss products allegedly misled consumers

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Napa County will receive \$88,693 as part of a multi-county settlement with the maker of a nutrition supplement for alleged false advertising, according to court documents and the Napa County District Attorney's Office.

Under the settlement, Sensa Products LLC of Delaware agreed to pay civil penalties and legal costs adding up to a total of \$800,000 to nine district attorneys' offices, including \$88,693 to Napa. The other district attorneys' offices include Marin, Monterey, Orange, Santa Clara, Solano, Sonoma and Santa Cruz counties.

The order was signed by a judge in Santa Cruz County on Nov. 20, according to the Santa Cruz District Attorney's Office.

While not admitting guilt, Sensa, which marketed weight-loss products nationwide online and in stores, agreed to a number of stipulations.

"One of the agreements or stipulations in the judgment against Sensa is that they will not market any products in the future without having the proper substantiation of proof that the product works in the manner advertised," said Napa County District Attorney Gary Lieberstein in an email. "Additionally, they will cease the practice of charging customers for products after they have canceled their order, as

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Two-year-old Mac Watson enjoys the view of the Lighted Tractor Parade in downtown Calistoga from atop his father Charlie Watson's shoulders Saturday night. *Lisa James/Register photos*

Eclectic parade cements Calistoga's eccentric image

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CALISTOGA — If there is one moment that cements this town's reputation as the valley's most lovably eccentric community, it is surely the annual Lighted Tractor Parade.

A convoy of vehicles of all sorts, all heavily encrusted with Christmas lights, some blaring music, some spewing fake snow, some even belching columns of flames, begins eat year at the western end of Calistoga and slowly crawls down Lincoln Avenue to the cheers of hundreds, even thousands, of spectators.

"The Tractor Parade is great because it's got these little kids on tricycles and their great big vineyard-management trucks they've spent \$10,000 to decorate," organizer Carol Bush said. "Or \$10 at Ace



Hardware to decorate your 4-year-old's bike." The 17th annual parade went off Saturday night despite a steady rain. Calistoga is not the sort of town to let a little rain crimp its love of parades: The first Tractor Parade in 1996 went on under a similar rainstorm, organizers recall, and earlier this year, the annual Halloween Parade, along the

same route, drew hundreds of costumed paraders despite a driving rainstorm.

The Tractor Parade entries are judged in a variety of categories that speak to the wide array of vehicles on display: pre-1960 tractors, post-1960 tractors, construction vehicles, pre-1965 utility

See PARADE, Page A6

TEDx event focuses on connections

Second annual conference brings speakers to Napa

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The second annual TEDxNapaValley conference got off to a rocky start, but after receiving assurance that all would be well, event emcee Pat Jeffries used one audience member's medical emergency to remind the rest in attendance that they are all connected.

The theme of being connected was carried throughout the day in the brief talks by the dozen speakers, the first of whom was briefly delayed when a member of the audience had what appeared to be a seizure. After the patient was transported out of the Napa Valley Opera House auditorium by paramedics from the Napa Fire Department, Jeffries, general manager of ZuZu Tapas & Paella, related the experience to what this year's conference was all about: connecting with others and sharing experiences.

He said the experience, though unfortunate and scary, was one that the roughly 300 event attendees shared. The rest of the afternoon and evening was filled with other experiences aimed at bringing people together, or focused on that goal.

Driving that point home was artist Peter Hassen, the man behind the Values Project. Hassen and about 140 volunteers are responsible for the "value" words painted in parking spaces throughout Napa. The words, including "kindness," "justice" and "tolerance," among many others, are now spreading to Sacramento and eventually other cities.

"I make art that tries to connect people with something larger than themselves," Hassen said. "I'm really enjoying how people can be connected and what role my art will play in that process."

Hassen compared the painted words to messages in bottles, saying that each has a life of its own and is "an unexplained message in an unexpected place."

Entrepreneur and author Lisa Gansky spoke about changing times, saying that shifts in population, the recession and attitudes have put the world on a precipice of change.

"Sharing is at the core of everything we're going to see in the next 40 years," Gansky told the crowd. "We're at this intersection where, last century, so much of what we did and thought about in our personal lives and our business and our communities was organized around ownership. This century, we're organized around access."

Gansky said access to goods, services and talent will rise above ownership of those things.

"We are more connected to people today than ever before," Gansky said, explaining that technology makes it convenient to share and connect.

Gansky's presentation hit home with Napa resident Donna DeWeerd, 65, who said she was inspired by the speaker's message of sharing. She said she'd like to look into some things Gansky mentioned, including bike sharing, couch surfing, sharing fields and other spaces.

"I'm just an old socialist at heart," said DeWeerd, a first-time TEDx attendee. "This really brings socialism to life. It puts the 'social' in socialism."

Veteran, author and actor Mike Dowling gave the audience an inside glimpse into the life of a U.S. Marine Corps military working dog handler. Dowling shared personal experiences of his bond with Sergeant Rex, a German shepherd that served with him in Iraq, and explained how he developed a strong connection with the canine with whom he searched for

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