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 Showers
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Monday, June 24, 2013

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CONNECTIONS — C1
 Couple eats their way through the Baltic



BUSINESS — A4
 Recently recorded Napa residential property transactions

THE SPORTS PAGE — B1
 LaChapelle one of the very best to play in Napa Valley



VINE adds service to Fairfield

New route connects to Amtrak

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The Napa County Transportation and Planning Agency is preparing to roll out VINE bus service between Napa and Fairfield on July 1, connecting riders to Interstate 80 and the Amtrak Capitol Corridor train service.

The new Route 21 will make seven round trips Monday through Friday between Napa, the Fairfield Transit Center and the Suisun City Train Depot, which serves Amtrak trains connecting the Sacramento area and the Bay Area.

Buses will be running along Jameson Canyon Road/Highway 12 from 5:27 a.m. to 7:30

p.m. to serve students and commuters, said Tom Roberts, NCTPA public transit manager. Fares cost \$3 for a one-way trip.

NCTPA will be operating the buses, part of the county-wide VINE system, but has partnered with the Solano Transportation Authority to promote the new service through marketing efforts, Roberts said.

The service has received \$300,000 in federal funding

aimed at connecting rural areas through public transportation; the same source is funding Route 25, which connects Napa and Sonoma, Roberts said.

NCTPA and Solano Transportation Authority are each contributing \$22,500 to the service. The federal funding will pay for operational costs for the next two years, and NCTPA will have to apply to

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No furloughs, full calendar planned for local public schools

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The 2013-14 school year is already off to a positive start in the Napa Valley Unified School District.

No midyear cuts are anticipated, all furlough days have been restored and students will have a full 180 days of school. The district also anticipates some increased funding, thanks to a new school funding formula proposed by the governor.

"This is the best budget NVUSD has seen in five years," said Wade Roach, assistant superintendent of business services.

The California Legislature passed the 2013-14 state budget this month. The \$96.3 billion budget plan includes "the most significant and far-reaching changes" in education funding since the 1970s, Roach said. These changes are largely due to the state's improving economy and Proposition 30 — the education tax measure passed in November.

Gov. Jerry Brown expected Proposition 30 to raise about \$5.4 billion in additional state revenue for 2012-13, but actual revenues are already exceeding Brown's projections, according to the Legislative Analyst's Office.

In January, Brown announced a desire to give school districts more flexibility in their spending along with implementing a new school funding formula to help districts with high percentages of "at-risk youth."

The new "Local Control Funding Formula" still provides funding based on average daily attendance, but gives additional money to districts based on their proportion of English learners, foster youth, and free and reduced-price meal eligible students.

All students, through average daily attendance, will generate a base grant of about \$6,800 to \$8,300 per student statewide. But English learners, foster youth and low-income students will also generate a "supplemental grant," which provides an additional 20 percent on top of the base grant.

If a district's percentage of English learners, foster youth and low-

See SCHOOLS, Page A3

Napa man to stand trial for alleged sex crimes

Police presented graphic evidence during two-day preliminary hearing

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A Napa County Superior Court judge has ordered a 25-year-old man to stand trial for multiple sex crimes, including possessing and distributing child pornography and raping his girlfriend.

Richard Patrick Evensen, a resident of Napa, is also suspected of using a 16-year-old girl in San Luis Obispo County for sex acts through the exchange of sexually explicit texts, photos and videos between January and March 2013, according to court

testimony. Judge Mark Boessenecker, who conducted the preliminary hearing Wednesday and Thursday, scheduled Evensen's next court appearance for July 30. Evensen, who was arrested April 11, remains in custody at the Napa County jail.

Evensen has admitted downloading, watching and sharing child pornography, police said in court records. The material shown in court this week included videos of Evensen allegedly assaulting a girlfriend, according to court testimony. Evensen is suspected of filming while she was sleeping, Napa Police Officer Darlene Elia said in court Wednesday.

The woman, now in her early 20s, said she and Evensen started dating in June 2006 when she was 17, Elia said. They dated for about two years while Evensen and his mother lived in Browns Valley.

The woman called police in April when she read Evensen had been arrested, the officer said. Graphic video segments of the alleged assaults were

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A BEAR OF A TASK



Ray Schulz, a chain saw woodcarver from Deer Park, Wash., cuts the rough outline of a black bear sculpture from a 5-foot-long pine during a demonstration Sunday outside the Black Bear Diner in Napa. Howard Yune/Register

Crowd turns out at diner to watch chain saw demonstration

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Art can take shape under a painter's brushstrokes — or on the whirring, growling blade of Ray Schulz's chain saw.

For 20 years, the eastern Washington native has mastered the craft of chain saw woodcarving, a skill less redolent of museums than of bears, eagles and other symbols of the wild outdoors. On Sunday, Schulz displayed his gift before spectators in Napa, the final stop of a weeklong, six-city tour from Grants



Pass, Ore., to Bakersfield that the artist carried out for the Black Bear Diner, whose restaurants hosted the exhibitions.

Visitors to the Napa Black Bear witnessed Schulz and an apprentice, 25-year-old Darin Finnigan, compress their abilities into six hours, as the two shaved a pair of 5-foot-long ponderosa pine logs into the black bear carvings that adorn the chain's namesake eateries.

One of the wooden animals will decorate the Napa diner's interior, while the other was raffled off for \$500 in a fundraiser for Aldea Children & Family Services, according to Lisa Tremain, clinical director for Aldea's Redwood Residential Treatment Center.

While a chain saw artist's tools might suggest timber cutting and untamed forests, Schulz applied them with an approach suggesting a sculptor seeing in a chunk of raw stone the statue it could become.

See CHAIN SAW, Page A2

Conference promotes new way to learn

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New Technology High School recently hosted the second annual Project Based Learning World Conference, which brought in about 575 educators from around the globe, including representatives from Israel and Australia.

Locally, New Tech is one of the district's leaders in project-based learning — an in-depth learning process in which students respond to complex questions and complete rigorous group projects.

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BIG MOON RISING — The moon rises over Coombsville Road in Napa on Friday evening before waxing to full Saturday night, when the moon was the largest it will appear in the sky for 2013. Lisa James/ Register

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