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 High: 64° Low: 34°
 Scattered clouds
 Full report page D6

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Monday, February 25, 2013

Year 150 • No. 190

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A new start for Vintage football



District to restore 180-day school year

Students will attend five additional days next year

ISABELLE DILLS
 idills@napanews.com

Students in the Napa Valley Unified School District will have 180 days of instruction in the next school year — the first full-length school year since 2009-10.

The district's 2013-14 school calendar includes the reinstatement of seven furlough days, five of which are instructional days for students. Napa students had

lost the equivalent of one week of instruction after the district imposed furlough days to save money during the financial crisis.

Having no furlough days during the next school year means teachers' salaries will return to the 2009-10 level. Each furlough day for teachers was equal to about a one-half-percent reduction in salary, said Ashley Halliday, assistant superintendent of human resources.

Next year's calendar also includes pushing winter break back by one week — the length of the break is the same, but it will start two days before Christmas instead of in mid-December. Students

will return to class Jan. 13.

By delaying winter break, students will have three weeks of instruction following the week-long Thanksgiving break, Halliday said. Thanksgiving falls at a later date this year, meaning students would have had only two weeks of instruction between the vacation times, he said.

The school district's board of trustees approved the 2013-14 calendar at Thursday's board meeting.

Earlier this year, Gov. Jerry Brown announced that the state can start increasing funding for K-12, thanks to the

See YEAR, Page A3

Citations, collisions down in 2012

CHP releases stats for Napa unit

KERANA TODOROV
 ktodorov@napanews.com

California Highway Patrol officers assigned to the Napa unit wrote almost 15 percent fewer citations in 2012 than in 2011.

At the same time, the number of traffic collisions with injuries in unincorporated Napa County decreased by 25 percent in 2012, while the total number of traffic collisions declined by 7 percent, the CHP reported.

Five people lost their lives on the roadways in unincorporated Napa County — or four fewer than a year before, according to the CHP.

These were among the annual statistics the CHP released recently for its Napa unit, whose officers patrol unincorporated roadways in Napa County and sections of Sonoma County.

CHP Officer Garrett Ray could not give a reason behind the drop in the number of citations issued by the Napa unit officers. The statistics provided include the number of citations issued in unincorporated Napa County and areas in south Sonoma County patrolled by officers assigned to the Napa unit.

Yet he noted the number of officers' contacts and verbal warnings increased significantly in 2012.

Most of the 7,913 tickets issued in 2012 were for speed, seatbelt and driving under the influence violations, according to the CHP.

"We try to focus on things that cause injuries and death," Ray said.

Of the 785 collisions the CHP reported in unincorporated Napa County in 2012, 306 involved at least one person injured, according to the statistics. There were 427 people injured on the roadways, or 28 percent fewer than the year before.

The highway patrol's education efforts over the past year have included talks to winery employees, according to Ray. "I think the word is getting out," he said.

CHP Officer Elon Steers, spokesman for the Golden Gate Division, said officers also do motor assists, including clearing debris and other roadway hazards.

"They're working hard," he said.

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College expands course offerings

More sections planned for summer, fall sessions

ISABELLE DILLS
 idills@napanews.com

Napa Valley College plans to offer 120 course sections this summer — about triple the number from last year — thanks to the passage of Proposition 30. The college also plans to add 50 sections to its fall schedule, although there will still be far fewer than what the college offered before the financial crisis.

Earlier this year, Gov. Jerry Brown announced that the state can start increasing funding for education, thanks to the passage of Proposition 30, a tax measure approved by the voters on Nov. 6.

Over the past four years, Napa Valley College has lost approximately \$5 million in funding, and cutting sections of courses has been among many of the cost-saving measures.

As a result of the cuts, more students have found themselves on waitlists for classes, and those who registered late sometimes haven't gotten into any classes at all.

The past couple of years have been especially difficult. In fall 2012, the college offered approximately 84 fewer sections than it did in fall 2011, which already had 150 fewer sections than years before.

The priority for the college, as it adds more

See COLLEGE, Page A3



Construction has begun at Alexander Crossing, the 134-unit apartment complex being built along Silverado Trail near Soscol Avenue. J.L. Sousa/Register

Apartment complex, road construction taking form

Projects on the way but moving slower than hoped

CHANTAL M. LOVELL
 clovell@napanews.com

The construction of a new apartment complex on Silverado Trail is under way, but don't give notice to your current landlord just yet.

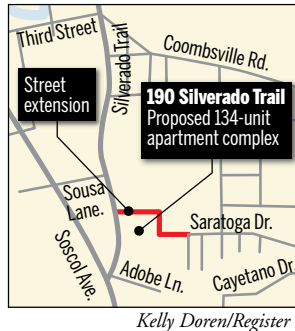
St. Anton Partners, LLC began constructing the Alexander Crossing apartments on Silverado Trail just north of the Soscol Avenue intersection in September. The developer estimates the 134 units will be complete in 14 to 16 months, said Andy Davidson, vice president of construction. Davidson said the project is moving along, but lamented the restrictions placed on project construction hours.

"We could shave off a significant amount of time if we could work weekends," Davidson said, explaining that the city will not allow the project to be constructed on weekends or holidays. During the week, Davidson said they are allowed to work from 7 a.m. to 5 or 6 p.m.

"I can't even have a guy out there sweeping on a Saturday," Davidson said. He said he has never encountered such limited hours for a project.

Ardie Zahedani, St. Anton's vice president of development, offered the

Silverado Trail detour



Kelly Doren/Register

shorter construction hours as one way to sweeten the project, which had left a sour taste in the mouths of some nearby residents. The complex, which will offer some units at a reduced rate to low- and very-low-income residents, was a controversial one involving a lawsuit and two approval processes.

The Napa City Council first approved the project in the summer of 2011, prompting residents to sue the city and developer. The developer withdrew the plans and submitted a new application to the city, offering to pay for an environmental impact report and requesting a zoning change over a lot line adjustment the second time around. In June 2012, the council again approved the project.

While the construction of Alexander Crossing is slow

going, the construction of an adjacent but unrelated project is also moving slower than expected. The city is currently widening Silverado Trail and extending Saratoga Drive to provide another access point to east Napa from the Trail, but the work is lagging because of heavy November and December rains, according to project engineer Neil Mathiesen. The dry weather in January and February has helped the crews catch up a bit, and they could begin widening the Trail next week.

Thus far, crews have been working on underground utilities on both the Trail and in the area where Saratoga Drive will be extended, Mathiesen said. On Silverado Trail, a new traffic signal will be added at the area where Saratoga Drive and the Trail will intersect. There will be turn lanes, and paved shoulders and sidewalks.

Saratoga Drive will be paved when weather forecasts show a dry few weeks on the horizon, Mathiesen said.

According to the city, the extension of Saratoga Drive will ease congestion at the five-point intersection of Silverado Trail, Coombsville

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Commission denies neighbors' appeal, approves cellular antenna

AT&T gets OK to move forward

CHANTAL M. LOVELL
 clovell@napanews.com

A ninth cellular antenna will be added to a water tank off Foster Road, despite the concerns of its nearest neighbors.

On Thursday, the Napa Planning Commission

denied an appeal by neighbors who did not want the additional AT&T Mobility data antenna added to the water tower north of the Foster Road and Golden Gate Drive intersection.

The four commissioners who were present for the meeting said their hands were largely tied by federal and state laws that prohibit them from denying

such an antenna application. They did set forth some conditions that must be met in order for the antenna to be installed.

As a condition of denying the appeal and thereby approving the antenna, AT&T will have to find some way to shield the equipment from the view

See ANTENNA, Page A3



This city-owned water tank near Foster Road, which already has a number of antenna panels attached, has been approved to receive an additional panel. An appeal by neighbors citing health concerns was denied by the Planning Commission on Thursday. J.L. Sousa/Register

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Jayne Braby Bethard,
 Reynaldo Lara Perez, Sr.

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