



Weather watch
 High: 60° Low: 35°
 Sunny
 Full report page D6

Napa Valley Register

On the web & on the go
 Download the free iPhone app
napavalleyregister.com

Monday, January 28, 2013

Year 150 • No. 162

50 cents

CONNECTIONS — C1

Rescuers try to help injured red-tailed hawk



BUSINESS FOCUS — A4

Most recent residential home sales

THE SPORTS PAGE — B1

Danny Cacho has a love affair with golf



Tool thief strikes Napa High teacher

Harris thought truck would be safer at school than at home

KERANA TODOROV
 ktodorov@napanews.com

The theft of his hand tools has left a Napa High School teacher and off-hours contractor both in the lurch and furious.

Jerry Harris, a linoleum floor installer who also teaches sustainable construction at Napa High, had left his work van parked near his classroom for one night after a rash of thefts in his neighborhood.

Harris, who allows his students to use some of the specialty tools on class projects, said he believed the van — locked, in the school parking lot — would be safer at the school than at his home near Jefferson and Ash streets.

“It’s always lit and there’s always people here,” he said.

But when he arrived at school at 7:30 a.m. the next day, Jan. 14, Harris discovered someone had pried open a door of his 2002 white Chevy van. The tools he had collected over three decades, including the ones his father — also a longtime Napa flooring contractor — had given him years ago, were gone.

“I was livid,” Harris said. Harris, who takes on contracting jobs after school to make ends meet, reported the burglary to Napa High’s school resource officer. He also offered a \$1,000 reward for information.

As time goes by, Harris continues to discover more missing tools, including nail guns, a compressor, wall spacers, a compound motor saw and a portable saw. So far, he’s compiled a list five pages long, representing losses of about \$9,000, he said.

His contractor insurance may cover only a fraction of what has been lost. And some of the tools he’s collected are simply no longer made, Harris said.

Fellow contractors have generously allowed him to borrow their tools, he said,

See **TOOLS**, Page A5

Index	
Bridge.....	C3
Business.....	A4
Calendar.....	C5
Classifieds.....	B4-B6, D4, D5
Comics.....	C4
Crosswords.....	C3, B6
Guest Editorial.....	D3
Horoscope.....	C3
Jumble.....	B6
Letters to the Editor.....	D3
Lottery.....	A2
Nation & World.....	D1
Scoreboard.....	B3
Sports.....	B1
Sudoku.....	C4
Weather.....	D6

Obituaries

Deandra 'Dee' Dodd,
 Ricardo C. Huijon,
 Audrey Paula Schwatka,
 Ronald Wallen

— Page D2

First Best
 Anytime. Anywhere.



To subscribe or for delivery inquiries, call 226-5582

CONSTRUCTION DELAYS



The Silverado Trail road project was wrapped in plastic during the December rains, but work has resumed with drier weather. *Lisa James/Register*

Construction, detours resume on Silverado Trail

December rains had shut project down

KEVIN COURTNEY
 fs f

As anyone who regularly travels Silverado Trail through the city knows, road construction that was to

have ended near Soscol Avenue before Christmas did not.

Blame the December storms that clobbered Napa and created near-flood conditions, said Eric Whan, the city’s deputy public works director.

Three weeks of heavy rain effectively shut down work

to widen Silverado Trail and construct a half-mile extension of Saratoga Drive to the Trail, connecting near Sousa Lane, Whan said.

“Things were sloppy, sloppy wet,” Whan said. The contractor covered the excavated landscape with large

See **TRAIL**, Page A5

Friends of Library hits 6-figure milestone

2012 was record fundraising year

JENNIFER HUFFMAN
 jhuffman@napanews.com

Anyone who’s attended the quarterly Napa Friends of the Library book sales can attest to how popular the events are. Hundreds, if not thousands, of shoppers visit the library’s community room during the weeklong sales looking for good reads and good deals.

In the past, the book sales have raised as much as \$80,000 a year for library coffers. But the Friends organization now has even better news — 2012 total sales topped \$100,000 for the first time, said Bruce Taylor, book sale manager of the Napa Friends of the Library.

It was a milestone that was almost missed, Taylor said. At the

end of the year, the tally seemed to peak at \$97,500. Taylor announced this total, still a record in its own right, to the Friends membership.

“It’s not the \$100,000 we were shooting for, but it ain’t bad either,” Taylor wrote in an email. “It will also give us something to shoot for in 2013.”

Taylor didn’t have to wait that long. Shortly afterward, a benefactor who asked to remain anonymous read the email and promptly made a donation to allow the group to hit its goal.

“Words do not often fail me, but this gesture took my breath away,” Taylor wrote.

On Friday, Taylor said the benefactor is a member of the Friends, but not a book sale volunteer. He’s a “generous soul,” Taylor said.

Proceeds from the book sale make numerous library projects possible, from new carpeting to literacy programs and other efforts, Taylor said.

“It’s a very good feeling” to help fund those projects, the book sale manager said. He noted that between 30 and 60 volunteers help run the regular sales, as well as collect donated books.

See **LIBRARY**, Page A2

Angwin landlords settle dispute with D.A.

Tenant had complained of conditions

KERANA TODOROV
 ktodorov@napanews.com

A family that owns rental properties in Napa County

has agreed to pay \$13,750 in penalties to settle a dispute with the county District Attorney’s Office regarding rental properties, including two in Angwin, according to court records.

In December, Jagodinka Alimpic, John Benjamin Alimpic and other family members also agreed to pay

\$4,265 to settle the alleged violations, according to the court documents filed Jan. 18 in Napa County Superior Court.

The District Attorney’s Office alleged the Alimpics rented a property that lacked adequate heating, installed a wall without a building permit and failed

to obtain a grading permit, among other allegations in the complaint. The Angwin properties cited in the complaint are at 400 College Ave. and 400 Howell Mountain Road, according to the proposed final judgment.

Under the agreement reached in December and

January, the Alimpics agreed to a number of terms, including:

- Applying for building permits as required under the California Building Code and the California Residential Code.
- Not renting or leasing

See **ANGWIN**, Page A2

Napa Valley Nephrology marks 25th anniversary



Dr. Thomas Paukert, senior physician of Napa Valley Nephrology, and his colleagues at Napa Valley Nephrology and Internal Medicine Medical Group Inc., are celebrating the practice’s 25th anniversary. *Lisa James/Register*

Health care reform presents challenges, Paukert says

NATALIE HOFFMAN
 newsroom@napanews.com

As a senior physician at Napa Valley Nephrology with more than three decades of local patient care, Dr. Thomas Paukert knows both renal physiology and the community inside-out.

Specializing in nephrology and internal medicine — which deal with the kidneys and broader adult issues — Paukert said he enjoys not just the science of medicine, but also its personal side, getting to know patients

and their families.

“It’s a unique opportunity in medicine to see patients from a very personal perspective,” he said. “We have patients that remember us. They sometimes just meet us on the street and say, ‘You took care of my dad! Napa’s a small town.’”

Paukert and his colleagues at Napa Valley Nephrology and Internal Medicine Medical Group Inc. are celebrating the practice’s 25th anniversary. Paukert established the group in 1987, five years after the then-independent practitioner launched a professional relationship with former local physician Barry Zacherle.

Before launching his current

See **ANNIVERSARY**, Page A3