

enterprise



Business Regional execs hear benefits of 'going green'



Davis High School girls play Monday morning in Dixon Ram Jam, Page B1

The morning after

It's time to take charge of all that holiday clutter



By Claudia Smith
SPECIAL TO THE ENTERPRISE

Our Sunday best

You have survived the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, from Thanksgiving to Christmas. Now, nothing to do but put up your feet and finalize your plans for New Year's Eve. Well, for most of us there are a few "morning after" details to tend to first. In the corner is the overstuffed bag, full of crumpled wrapping paper that held yesterday's well-received gifts. The fridge is loaded with bits of leftover Christmas dinner, from the eggnog you forgot to serve to the Jell-O mold that was less of a hit than you expected. There is the stack of gifts, including new books, toys and DVDs, along with some gifts you wish you hadn't received — none of which you have any room for. Crunchy needles begin to steadily fall onto the floor. The tree is already looking rather past its prime since it's been dead a full four weeks, and no one remembered to add water to the stand. To top it off, company — both invited and not — will be coming to visit, including out-of-town guests who are scheduled to spend a few nights. Clearly, the Christmas

clutter has to be cleared! First things first. Start with the easiest project and recycle that wrapping paper; remember to flatten those wads of paper and boxes to fit it all in your recycle bin. If your bin runneth over, take advantage of the convenient open bins at Davis Waste Removal, 2727 Second St.

Next, get the kitchen under control. Make space in the refrigerator by tossing all of the unappetizing leftovers and unhealthy sweets, like the two-week-old reindeer cookies. If you are expecting more company, do an inventory and make a grocery shopping list.

Make a plan, pace yourself

Now, time to pace yourself and brace yourself for the less obvious clutter-clearing. Pull out that new wildlife calendar or your smart phone's calendar, and schedule some post-holiday organizing time. Get the family involved, as the clutter-clearing will require the participation of the entire gang.

If you have put up lots of holiday decoration — plus a tree, plus lights, plus you have company coming — you need a game plan.



The day after Christmas often leaves one feeling like the to-do list is longer than it was before the holidays. Start small by having the kids gather up wrapping paper, top, and put it in the recycle bin. Professional organizer Claudia Smith, above, wants to remind people heading to post-Christmas sales, "50 percent off is not a bargain if it's spent on items that become excess clutter for which you have no space or need."

See CLUTTER, Page A5

BIGSTOCK PHOTO/COURTESY PHOTO

Housing drama in court

Davis consultant sues over 'illegal' use of city funds

By Crystal Lee
ENTERPRISE STAFF WRITER

The legal battle continues between the Davis Area Cooperative Housing Association and the consultant who helped form the co-op in 2003.

In DACHA's court are Davis city staff and elected officials, whose actions supported the co-op with a \$4.15 million loan in 2008. DACHA ceased to be a co-op in July after it defaulted on its payments and the city foreclosed on the homes and took over their ownership.

Now, the city is effectively the landlord of DACHA's 20 homes, clustered at locations throughout Davis, and the residents are renters.

Without assets and no longer a co-op, DACHA exists in name only and is taking steps toward dissolution.

On the other side of the conflict is longtime Davis resident David Thompson, who, with his business partner Luke Watkins, contracted with DACHA to expand the co-op. An arbitration judge in June ordered DACHA to pay \$331,872 to Neighborhood Partners, Thompson and Watkins' private consulting firm, for breaking that contract.

Thompson is also president of Twin Pines Cooperative Foundation, a nonprofit that issues loans and grants for co-ops worldwide. Twin Pines lent start-up funds to DACHA and is suing the co-op for engaging in what it claims are numerous illegal activities.

In the past few months, Twin Pines also sued the city of Davis, alleging that it helped DACHA break the law. The city is involved in a cover-up, Thompson says.

See HOUSING, Page A9

Building wins platinum honor

UC Davis winery, brewery, foods facility is certified by LEED

SPECIAL TO THE ENTERPRISE

UC Davis' new winery, brewery and food-processing complex last week received official LEED platinum certification — the highest environmental rating awarded by the U.S. Green Building Council.

Certification establishes the new building as the first LEED platinum winery, brewery or food-processing facility in the world. A public grand opening for the new \$20 million, 34,000-square-foot teaching/research complex is slated for Friday, Jan. 28.

The new facility, which is part of the Robert Mondavi Institute for Wine and Food Science, exceeded the requirements for LEED platinum certification, earning 60 points in a ranking system that

See PLATINUM, Page A5



SUE COCKRELL/ENTERPRISE FILE PHOTO

Grapevines frame the view of rainwater storage tanks that line the side of UC Davis' new winery, brewery and food-processing complex, which is part of the Mondavi Institute for Wine and Food Science. Among all existing LEED platinum buildings, it is one of the most extensive in its use of rainwater and on-site energy.

Supervisors disagree over legality of meeting

By Jonathan Edwards
ENTERPRISE STAFF WRITER

Yolo supervisors met illegally to push through a deal with Sacramento developer Angelo Tsakopoulos over the 17,300-acre Conaway Ranch, one supervisor said in a memo. Another called the accusation "a crock."

A Dec. 17 special meeting failed to satisfy the state's Brown Act, 1953 legislation proscribing how local governments must conduct business, according to a memo from Supervisor Jim Provenza of Davis.

During the special meeting, supervisors voted 3-2 to approve a 16-page contract with Tsakopoulos. The deal caps the amount of water he can sell outside Yolo County, hikes the fees on such water sales from 2 to 7.5 percent, and allows him to duck out of a two-year moratorium on wetlands conversion.

Lawyers representing Tsakopoulos say the moratorium doesn't apply to him anyway. Provenza, however, said the board was giving away its best tool for keeping ranch land in rice farming.

See MEETING, Page A4

Research shows generosity is repaid on many levels

By Debra Levi Holtz
SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

During the holiday season, more people serve food to the hungry, donate warm clothes to the homeless and give money to charity. But studies at UC Berkeley show that what motivates people to give comes from more than a desire to spread holiday cheer. Generosity for many is driven by a sincere desire to benefit others,

said Robb Willer, a UC Berkeley sociologist who researches the ways individuals overcome selfishness to contribute to the social good. He has found that people have varying levels of altruism, depending on such things as their personality, parental influences and experience.

"Volunteering your time and giving money to charity tends to make people happier than spending money on themselves," Willer said.

But for others, generosity pays. "It makes sense to be generous from a self-interested perspective," said Willer, who studies how people behave in groups. "If you're generous, you receive more respect, you have more influence and people cooperate with you more."

Experiments Willer has conducted in five countries show that giving can be contagious.

"I find the behavioral tendency is

for people to behave more generously after people have treated them well," he said.

One of Willer's studies focused on users of the website freecycle.org, an online gift-giving community. Freecycle began in 2003 as an e-mail group in Tucson committed to reusing materials that would otherwise end up in landfills. Its only rule

See GENEROSITY, Page A4

INDEX

BusinessA8
ClassifiedsB5
ColumnsB4
ComicsB11
ForumA10
ObituariesA2
Op-EdA11
SportsB1
TV Listings B10,11

WEATHER



Today: Morning rain, mostly cloudy. High 53, low 39. Page B12

HOW TO REACH US

www.davisenterprise.com
Main line: (530) 756-0800
Circulation: (530) 756-0826



http://facebook.com/TheDavisEnterpriseNewspaper
http://twitter.com/D_Enterprise



8 50868 00152 3