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AU Energy sent back to drawing board

By Claudia Aceves
Tribune Reporter

The Calistoga Planning Commission on Wednesday continued a public hearing on AU Energy's request for a use permit to build a new Shell gas station and convenience store at the intersection of Petrified Forest Road and Foothill Boulevard, in essence telling the applicant to go back to the drawing board.

However, based on the design that was presented Wednesday, commissioners also directed staff

to return with a motion denying the project.

"I appreciate that this project could basically start with a white sheet of paper and come back," commissioner Tim Wilkes said.

Current plans call for a five-pump gas station, convenience store, self-serve car wash and a sit-down restaurant at 2449 Foothill Boulevard. A 1,000-gallon propane tank and dispenser would also be installed.

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Tucker real estate office allowed; project reveals flaws in 'formula' biz law

By Kim Beltran
Tribune Editor

The Calistoga City Council this week upheld an appeal of a Planning Commission decision denying a use permit to Middletown resident Sandy Tucker,

who wanted to open a new real estate office downtown.

The Council approved 5-0 Tucker's request to open a NextHome real estate

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Apartments' opening delayed once more

By Kim Beltran
Tribune Editor

Tenants expecting to move into the new Calistoga Senior Apartment complex last Saturday were once again put off when management called them the Friday before to say there would be another delay.

Calistoga city manager Dylan Feik told the

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Current mayor Chris Canning, whose term ends this year, said this week that he will seek re-election to a fourth term as mayor. Canning also serves as the Chamber of Commerce executive director.



Canning to seek 4th mayoral term

■ Resident Douglas Allan pulls paperwork to run for City Council but hadn't filed as of Wednesday

By Kim Beltran
Tribune Editor

Incumbent Chris Canning said this week that he will seek a fourth term as mayor of Calistoga in the Nov. 6 election.

He revealed he planned to pick up the paperwork on Thursday and return it by 5 p.m. today, the deadline for candidates to file nomination papers with the city.

Meanwhile, a fourth man – High Street resident Douglas Allan – had picked up the nomination paperwork from city clerk Kathy Flanson but hadn't returned it as of Wednesday, she said.

If Allan throws his hat in the ring, he would be on the ballot with incumbents Jim Barnes and Gary Kraus, as well as newcomer Donald Williams, all three of whom have filed the necessary paperwork to run.

"After very serious consideration and deliberation, I have chosen to file for re-election," Canning told the Tribune on

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PHOTO COURTESY OF JENNIFER BREINER

Members of the Middletown High School girls volleyball team work out at Fitness First in Calistoga on Monday. Their home gymnasium is currently serving as an evacuation center for evacuees from the Mendocino Complex Fire.

Middletown volleyball team working out in Calistoga while gym houses fire evacuees

By Kim Beltran
Tribune Editor

When your home court is converted to a shelter for fire evacuees but you've got a volleyball season to prepare for, what do you do?

Luckily for the Middletown High School volleyball team, they've got friends in Calistoga.

Led by coach Vanessa Davis and traveling in three passenger vans, the members of the team have been coming to work out at Fitness First and practice in Calistoga High School's old gymnasium, Davis said this week.

"We're just so grateful to Jennifer [Breiner] for helping us out and allowing us to work out at Fitness First," Davis

told the Tribune. "It's made a huge difference for us."

Massive wildfires burning north of Clear Lake and spreading south along its eastern and western borders have forced thousands of people to flee their homes and take refuge in shelters set up in Lower

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Clover Flat may face sanctions over latest fire

By Kim Beltran
Tribune Editor

Clover Flat Landfill and its management could be facing monetary fines and operating restrictions following the third fire there this year.

A Notice of Violation was sent this week to the landfill, said David Morrison, director of the Napa County Planning, Building, and Environmental Services Department which has regulatory authority over the operation.

A special meeting of the Upper Valley Waste Management Agency, which contracts with the privately owned landfill for county services, has been scheduled for Monday morning in Yountville to discuss the situation and potential remedial measures, UVA director Steven Lederer confirmed in an email Wednesday.

"Although the exact cause of the most recent fire is currently unknown, the Clover Flat Landfill facility has a concerning history of fires," read the Notice of Violation sent to Clover Flat's Bob Pestoni, who also owns and manages the Upper Valley Disposal Company in St. Helena. "Over the past year, the Napa County Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) and CalFire/Napa County Fire has observed and reported repeated areas of concern

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Calistoga Jr./Sr. High School put on accreditation probation

By Claudia Aceves
Tribune Reporter

Calistoga Junior Senior High School's accreditation status has been deemed "probationary," and administrators have two years to address the issues that led reviewers to bestow that label.

The school's short-comings include not having a Single Plan for Student Achievement, as well as no long-term learning plan for students, and a lack of staff

knowledge about and input into the district's guiding blueprint – the Local Control Accountability Plan, or LCAP.

"Calistoga Junior and Senior High School (7-12) deviates significantly from the ACS WASC criteria for accreditation in one or more critical areas," states a May 3 letter from the Accrediting Commission for Schools, Western Association of Schools and Colleges (ACS/WASC) – the agency responsible for accrediting public, charter

and overseas schools throughout California, Hawaii, Guam, Asia, the Pacific Region, the Middle East, Africa and Europe.

"It is the decision of the Commission to grant Probationary Accreditation Status to Calistoga Junior and Senior High School through June 30, 2020, with a two-day visit in 2020," the letter stated.

While the accreditation process is voluntary, it serves as an evaluation tool to highlight what a school is doing right as well as

areas where improvement is needed. Being accredited assures a community that the school is a "trustworthy institution for student learning" and "validates the integrity of the school's program and transcripts," according to the ACS WASC website.

To become accredited or to retain accreditation, each school must conduct an indepth self-study and then host a visiting ACS

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