

Calistoga Tribune

Independently owned and published in Calistoga for Calistogans since 2002

50¢

Friday, July 25, 2014

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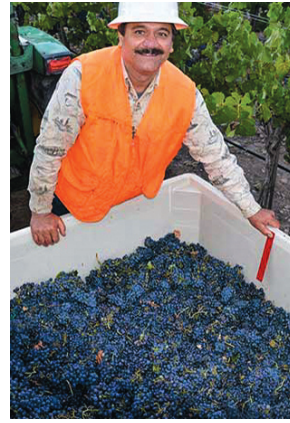


PHOTO BY TONY ALBRIGHT, NVV

Council reviews new impact fees

■ New developments pay fees to cover costs in providing increased fire, police, rec services

By Pat Hampton

Tribune Publisher

Impact fees, those costs for services charged to new development, are under review by the city council for the first time and some may be reduced while others could remain at their current status or in-

crease slightly.

Allowed by state statute, impact fees cover a part of costs for increased services such as police and fire protection, parks, recreation, transportation and other programs that new homes and businesses receive when they are

built in the city limits.

Projects with development agreements, such as Calistoga Hills and Silver Rose, have negotiated fees and do not pay impact fees.

On Tuesday, consultants from Oakland-based Economic & Planning Systems, Inc. (EPS), presented its findings to city councilmem-

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More money set aside for sidewalk repairs

By Amanda Rhodes

Tribune Staff Writer

Calistoga's deteriorating sidewalks will continue to get revamped but for some homeowners, sidewalks needing major repairs could mean more money out of their pockets.

The Calistoga City Council approved a sole source, \$25,000 contract with Precision Concrete Cutting (PCC) to move forward with Phase II of the Sidewalk Trip Hazard Removal Project beginning this summer and fall.

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Ready, set, swim!



PHOTO BY PAUL PEDERSEN

Swimmer Sabrina Wells competed in freestyle for the Calistoga Youth Swim Team against Hidden Valley in the group's very first competitive meet at the Loggy Community Pool.

Youth swim team hosts first meet

By Claudia Aceves

Tribune Cub Reporter

Calistoga held its first swim meet against Hidden Valley for the community pool's youth swim club last Sunday morning, prepping the kids for a potential future in competitive swimming.

The youth swim club is on its second year, having first been started by former coach Marianne Cushing, now residing in Tallahassee.

"Marianne set the meet up with Hidden Valley before she left," said current coach and pool

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Eleven local youngsters took to the lanes last weekend for the very first Calistoga Youth Swim Team friendly but competitive meet. The group is coached by Nick McMaster (in back) and Megan McCaffrey (not shown).

PHOTO BY PAUL PEDERSEN

Property values rise in all cities

■ Calistoga's values increase by \$32 million

By Tribune Staff

Calistoga Tribune

Every city in Napa County saw their property assessment grow over the previous year, with Calistoga's assessment roll increasing 4.84 percent according to county assessor-recorder-county clerk John Tuteur.

Tuteur presented a local assessment roll of \$30.746 billion for the 2014-2015 Fiscal Year to auditor controller Tracy Schulze based on the value of all local property as of January 1, 2014.

Calistoga's land values increased by \$32.24 million, reaching \$741 million in 2014-2015 against the previous year's \$ 707 million. St. Helena's one percent increase bumped its town's value to \$1.95 billion from \$1.94 billion last year and Yountville's 7.91 per-

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Harvest starts down valley for sparklings

■ Schramsberg looks at picking next week

By Pat Hampton

Tribune Publisher

The first of Napa Valley's sparkling wine producers began picking grapes around 6 a.m. on Wednesday, just two days earlier than the start of last year's wine grape harvest.

The Napa Valley Vintners (NVV) trade association reports that although this past winter was one of the driest on record,

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