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3-1 vote to appoint Barnes results in angry protests

By Pat Hampton
Tribune Publisher

It was standing room only at Tuesday's City Council meeting which erupted with angry accusations and the abrupt departure of a Councilmember when a 3-1 vote put Jim Barnes onto the five-member board and not rival Charlotte Williams.

For an hour, speakers approached the podium to explain why Williams, third place finisher in the recent election, or Barnes, who trailed her by 73 votes, should be appointed to the seat vacated by newly elected mayor Chris Canning, who had two years left in his term.

The public hearing kicked-off the first full City Council meeting with Chamber of Commerce head Canning as mayor, retired teacher Carl Sherrill as a new City Councilmember, innkeeper Michael Dunsford who was re-elected, and retired fire chief Gary Kraus, who has two years remaining in his four-year term.



PHOTO BY PAT HAMPTON

Newly appointed councilmember Jim Barnes is sworn in by acting city clerk Richard Spitler.

As the campaign season unfolded, Williams and Sherrill expressed support for slow or no growth and petitioned for votes opposing Measure B, which would allow redevelopment of the Silver Rose resort. Canning,

Dunsford and Gingles favored Measure B and said new development was needed to help the city find new revenues in a stark recession.

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Vineyard worker finds body near reservoir

By Michelle Wing
Tribune Senior Staff Writer

A vineyard worker at Kenefick Ranch found a badly decomposed human body near the reservoir at Brannan and Silverado Trail on Tuesday.

According to Napa County Sheriff's Capt. Tracey Stuart, dispatch received a call at 1 p.m. reporting the discovery of the body. Deputies and investigators responded, and were directed to a creek bed.

Stuart said on Wednesday search and rescue personnel, the Coroner's Office, evidence technicians, and detectives were on scene, hoping to gather all of the evidence and remove the body by nightfall. At press time, Stuart was not able to release any other details, except to say that the body was not that of a child.

Gena Carlin, tasting room manager for Up Valley Vintners and sales room associate for Kenefick Ranch, said Sheriff's

deputies on scene had told them they believed the body had washed down onto the ranch property from the creek into the reservoir.

"It was very, very decomposed," she said. "About six months."

Vineyard workers had been out checking the irrigation lines, Carlin said. "That's what brought them to that area."

Because the site was outside of city limits, it is being handled by the Sheriff's Department. However, acting chief Jonathan Mills of the Calistoga Police Department did go to the scene as well.

At this point, she said, the Sheriff's Department informed them they have no active missing person's reports. "It could be a homeless person," Carlin said. She also noted that they were investigating the possibility of illegal marijuana operations up in the hills somewhere.

Stuart said further details should be forthcoming by the end of the week.

Fair board dinner honors longtime director Holston

By Pat Hampton
Tribune Publisher

Recognizing his 18 years spent helping the iconic county fair survive drastic cuts in state revenues and celebrate each summer with a Fourth of July spirit, Rich Holston was given the Director's Award at last week's annual meeting for the Napa County Fair Association.



Rich Holston

own," said CEO Carlene Moore. "A passionate golfer, an articulate speaker, a visionary thinker, and a celebrator of community, Rich has demonstrated the ideal qualities of a board member throughout his 18 years of service to this Association. "From overseeing the organization of parade entries, to calling on past participants, to doling out awards, he has made sure that the more than 7,000 people each year gathering on the streets of Calistoga to celebrate their patriotism and 4th of July traditions haven't been let down."

Holston was given the award at

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Indian Springs Resort application gets nod of approval from new City Council

By Pat Hampton
Tribune Publisher

Indian Springs resort has been granted permission to add 75 new guest rooms and other amenities to the historic site of Calistoga's first spa and resort originally built by Sam Brannan.

Owner John Merchant said the expansion will include a new restaurant, event center, gym and yoga studio and hotel registration building on the 16-acre parcel on Lincoln Avenue as well as 264 new parking places. The plan was approved at the Nov. 14 Planning Commission meeting and heard Tuesday by the City Council for final approval.

All but three of the new units will be located on the back side of Mt. Lincoln, unseen from Lincoln Avenue, said city senior planner Erik Lundquist. Merchant will be asked to build an eight-foot tall fence between his property and the adjoining Calistoga Springs Mobile Home Park.

Merchant told councilmembers that the new expansion will provide 35-40 more jobs at the resort, mostly at the restaurant. The resort's new rooms could bring an additional \$1 million into annual transient occupancy taxes (TOT) if they reach 80 percent occupancy within three years of opening. Room rates, Merchant said, would

average \$400 a night. He said he was still in talks with Westamerica Bank over financing the expansion construction, and if all went well, the work could start in May and be finished by July 2014.

City manager Richard Spitler told councilmembers there is ample municipal water for the project and with an agreement between the city and developers, less geothermal water will be discharged into the city sewer system. The application for the project was submitted in July 2011. Merchant will pay \$912,000 in impact fees, including \$258,000

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At St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Much beloved priest will retire on Jan. 6

By Michelle Wing
Tribune Senior Staff Writer

Priest Lucretia Jevne, 66, has only been with St. Luke's Episcopal Church for five and a half years. But in her short stay, she has impacted the small congregation in very big ways, making her impending retirement one not only of new beginnings, but also of sadness

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Priest Lucretia Jevne at the Diocesan Convention, 2012.

over the loss of a leader and friend.

Lay eucharist leader and board president of Hearts & Hands Preschool Millie Pease said, "We were thrilled to get Lucretia....She worked very hard to make the services beautiful."

Jevne was ordained as a deacon in 1996, and as a priest in 1997. Prior to that, she lived in Germany for many years, working as an office administrator. Before taking the position in Calistoga, she was serving as the interim pastor at Trinity Church in

Sonoma.

Jevne's husband, Walter Phelps, is also a priest, now retired. St. Luke's had been looking for a new priest for about 18 months, and during that time, Phelps had been among those priests who had filled in on a temporary basis.

Jevne joined St. Luke's in July 2007. She lives in Vacaville, and

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