

# Calistoga Tribune

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PHOTO BY PAT HAMPTON

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Group waiting for OK from state on operating proposal
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Vandal sprays cars, signs with mystery red dye
- ▶ **'CATS VS EAGLES**  
Wildcat basketball teams fall to first place RVC

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## City wins Measure A lawsuit

By Pat Hampton  
Tribune Publisher

A Napa judge has dismissed a lawsuit by a San Diego man claiming the city had misspent Measure A funds on a 1.5 million gallon water tank.

Judge Raymond Guadagni issued his ruling on Wednesday, a day after hearing arguments in his courtroom from Grant Reynolds, who brought the suit, and Leah Castella, defending the city of

Calistoga, from Burke, Williams & Sorenson LLP.

Reynolds, a San Diego resident, filed the suit against the City of Calistoga as well as all five individual city councilmembers and the Napa County Flood Protection and Watershed Improvement Authority (NCFPIA) last June. Reynolds claimed that the city and the county had violated Measure A by spending money on the construction of a water tank that would be

used to accommodate growth and development which violated the intent of the half-cent tax measure approved by voters in 1998.

Castella's arguments showed that the city was responding to a compliance order issued in 1996 by the Dept. of Public Health to add a second water storage tank because the 1 million gallon tank in Fiege Canyon was inadequate. In 2003 the City Council approved

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## Downtown biz owners warned about Lincoln Ave. paving plan

By Pat Hampton  
Tribune Publisher

"2012 will be difficult and ugly," public works director Dana Takasugi told the crowd of business people gathered at Tuesday's annual membership meeting of the Chamber of Commerce.

It was Takasugi's introduction to a list of Caltrans summer paving projects that will disrupt parking and affect retail business when Lincoln Avenue is resurfaced from Foothill Boulevard to the Silverado Trail.

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## Dog park activists rally support

By Michelle Wing  
Tribune Senior Staff Writer

The friends of Calistoga's canines are at it again.

A group of enthusiastic dog lovers are resuscitating efforts to open a city dog park, nearly three years after the first attempts were scrapped. Scott Atkinson, who's been in on the efforts since the beginning, hopes this time the city won't be able to say no.

Atkinson called a meeting for interested parties on Jan. 26, and 15 people showed up to express support. His proposal? To fence off an 80 foot by 200 foot section of land on the Logvy property, on the back side of the Community Pool past the Community Garden site.

The dog park would have an 80 foot by 160 foot area for larger dogs, and a 40 foot by 80 foot sec-

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## Writing the stories of a lifetime



Seniors explore past via memoirs

By Michelle Wing  
Tribune Senior Staff Writer

It is Tuesday morning, and a group of women are gathered around a table, pens in hand, pages marked, engaging in the oldest practice of all – telling stories.

They are the members of the Calistoga Recreation Services new memoir writing class, led by instructor Drew Sparks. Designed as an

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(Top) The group includes (clockwise from left) Nancy Wilson, Carolyn Van Konynenburg, instructor Drew Sparks, Wynne Wilson, Debora Shapiro, Trudy Martin and Biserka Potrebic, with Dina Corcoran, reading. (Far right) Corcoran shares some new writing with her peers. (Right) Sparks (on right) takes notes while Van Konynenburg listens.

PHOTOS BY MICHELLE WING



## Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District hopes to re-open Bale Grist Mill, Bothe-NV state parks by April 1

By Pat Hampton  
Tribune Publisher

Still waiting for an answer from the state over its proposal, the Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District (NCRPOSD) is hoping to re-open and begin operating the now-closed Bothe-Napa Valley State Park and Bale Grist Mill State Historic Park as of April 1.

"We're really close to having an

State budget cuts have closed the Napa Valley's state parks, including the Bale Grist Mill (left) and Bothe-Napa Valley just south of Calistoga.

FILE PHOTO BY MICHELLE WING

agreement, but it takes a long time for the state to review proposals," John Woodbury, general manager of the NCRPOSD, said this week. "We're going forward as if it's happening."

Woodbury said his group is partnering with the Napa Valley State Parks Association (NVSPA) to take over management of the two parks. NCRPOSD will manage Bothe-Napa Valley State Park and the NVSPA will manage Bale Grist Mill State Historic Park. The two properties sit next to each other on St. Helena Highway just three miles south of Calistoga.

In May of 2011, California State Parks announced a plan to close up to 70 of its 279 parks due to budget cuts. The

closures were deemed necessary to achieve an \$11 million reduction in 2011/12 and \$22 million in 2012/13.

"We regret closing any park," Ruth Coleman, director of California State Parks, said at the time, "but with the proposed budget reductions over the two year period, we can no longer afford to operate all parks within the system."

State Parks has been working statewide to find partners or donors who can help keep parks open. As of January 2012, the department has reached agreements for keeping nine of the 70 parks open and operating according to its website.

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