



- ▼ **FIERCE FLU SEASON**
Health officials urge people to protect themselves with flu shot
BELOW
- **COMMUNITY CALENDAR**
There's a lot of cool stuff to do in Calistoga – check it out!
6
- ◀ **WILDCATS ON COURT**
Boys, girls basketball teams open league play with split
8

Residents, city talk options at forum on water rate hikes

By Kim Beltran
Tribune Editor

City leaders this week said they will consider several options to lessen the impact of water and sewer rate hikes on residents, including adopting smaller annual increases than are currently recommended as well as subsidizing payments for some residential customers.

But no promises were made at Wednesday night's

community forum, where Mayor Chris Canning, councilman Gary Kraus and city manager Dylan Feik shared information and answered questions about Calistoga's beleaguered water and wastewater systems.

"This is not a pleasant task for any elected body, no matter what city you're in," Canning told the 40

See **RATES** on page 5

Teachers, district begin contract talks

■ Salary, class sizes, paid leave and evaluations of teachers up for discussion

By Granville Fox
Tribune Reporter

Contract negotiations between the teachers union and the school district for 2017-18 are set to begin after both sides submitted initial proposals at the school board meeting held Monday.

Calistoga Associated Teachers (CAT) union president and long-time Calistoga Junior/Senior High School teacher Kathleen Bone expects the two parties to meet and begin nego-

tiations by the end of the month.

The current contract between CAT and Calistoga Joint Unified School District (CJUSD) is effective through June 30, 2018. It is typically renewed each year and can go no longer than three years without both sides agreeing to a renewal. As currently constructed, the contract allows for both parties to open discussions on up to three separate amendments each during negotiations.

District officials have chosen to open discussions regarding teacher evaluations and the combined categories of work year, hours of employment and adjunct duties. The latter is the result of an agreement made between CJUSD and CAT last

September when the district promised to open the amendment if the teachers dropped a previously filed grievance over mandated advisory and sustained silent reading periods. Teachers filed the grievance because they felt the periods took away valuable teaching hours and believed that such an implementation should've been negotiated beforehand, Bone said.

On CAT's end, Bone said teachers will be opening discussions regarding class sizes, personal and paid leaves, coaching salaries and stipends for chaperoning overnight field trips.

See **CONTRACT** on page 3



TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO BY CLARK JAMES MISHLER

A public health nurse administers a flu shot during a free flu shot clinic held in Calistoga last November. Health officials say the flu shot is the most safe and effective way to protect oneself from the influenza virus.

Flu season not over; officials recommend getting vaccinated

By Kim Beltran
Tribune Editor

Medical experts and county health officials are urging residents to vaccinate themselves against the influenza virus, which has led to widespread sickness throughout the area and an unusually high number of deaths statewide.

According to Napa County Health Officer Dr. Karen Relucio, there have been no flu-related deaths reported so far this season in her jurisdiction. However, nearly 10 percent of all people coming into Napa's Queen of the Valley Hospital Emergency Room were presenting flu-like symptoms, Relucio said, adding that figure is already near last year's peak with more than half the season remaining.

"It's not too late to get a flu shot," Relucio told the Tribune in an interview on Wednesday. "The flu shot is still the most safe and effective way to protect yourself from the flu."

In a press release issued Tuesday, the California Department of Public Health reported 27 flu-related deaths among patients younger than 65 as of Dec. 31, 2017.

"Usually, at this time of year, we have reported in the neighborhood of three or four deaths in people under age 65," Dr. James Watt, chief of the Division of Communicable Disease Control at the state Department of Public Health, stated.

"It's possible that we're seeing higher numbers of deaths

See **FLU** page 3

Safe crossing, rain or shine



PHOTO BY CLARK JAMES MISHLER

Calistoga Elementary School crossing guard Daniel Sund nears the end of his shift on a very wet Monday afternoon this week. Sund, who has been working the corner of Washington and Third for the past four years, says that this job, along with his Social Security, allows him to continue living in Calistoga. Sund said he is worried that the new Berry Street bridge, slated to open later this month, will bring renewed traffic congestion to his intersection as drivers try to avoid Lincoln Avenue and the bridge construction project underway there.

Every year in the United States, on average:

■ 5% to 20% of the population gets the flu

■ More than 200,000 people are hospitalized from flu-related complications

■ About 36,000 people die from flu-related causes