

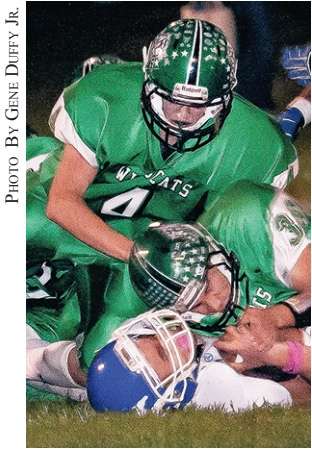
Calistoga Tribune

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Friday, January 25, 2013

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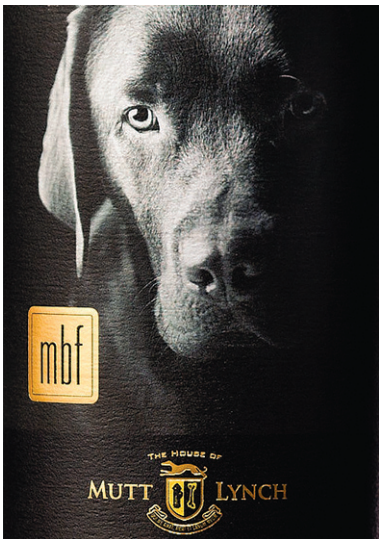


SF Chronicle Wine Competition



PHOTO BY ANITA HOWACKA

Brenda Lynch, owner of Mutt Lynch Winery in Healdsburg, lives in Calistoga with her family.



The Sweepstakes Award in the Label Category at the San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition was presented for the second year in a row to Mutt Lynch Winery. This year it was for their mbf (“Man’s Best Friend”) series (above).

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Wine winners

By Michelle Wing
Tribune Senior Staff Writer

Calistoga wines and wineries claimed over 60 medals at the 2013 San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition earlier this month, making it clear it’s not just the water that makes this town special. The competition, the largest judging of American wines in the world, this year brought in over 5,500 entries from most of the wine regions in the U.S., and Calistoga vintners big and small made their

mark. Mutt Lynch Winery won the Sweepstakes Award for the second year running for their label design. The label series, called mbf (“Man’s Best Friend”) depicts black-and-white photographs of dogs and people, and is the inspiration of designer Rae Huestis of Walnut Creek’s Rae Huestis Designs. “It’s an amazing pat on the back to our label designer,

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Water, sewer rates will have to go up

\$4.5 MILLION FOR SEWER LINE PART OF RESORT AGREEMENT

By Pat Hampton
Tribune Publisher

New water and sewer rates that went into effect two years ago with the hope of funding the city’s infrastructure costs have been stymied by conservation and stalled development from the recession. Rates to the city’s customers will have to go up to meet costs and avoid using general fund money to subsidize the two utilities. Consultant David Spilman told the city council in a workshop Tuesday the city’s two enterprise funds are in financial distress because current rates are inadequate as they were based partly on water and sewer connection fees anticipated from new development and increased use by the city’s 1,560 water customers. Revenues are down about nine percent in both water and sewer funds, Spilman said, while costs

for debt payments and capital improvement replacement expenses are being paid for out of operating revenues. “It’s perfectly legal to spend general fund dollars to assist the water and wastewater funds,” said city manager Richard Spitler. “It’s just ordinarily bad policy to do that. Enterprise funds should be self-sufficient.” Spitler said in 2010 when the rate study was underway, the committee banked on income from the development of the Terrano resort project approved for the Silver Rose Inn site and a new retail and resort project at the Village Inn & Spa complex. “If you were to visit other cities this same thing happened everywhere. Everyone had development projects ready to

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City considers replacing Berry Street Bridge for safety reasons

\$2.37 MILLION COST COVERED BY FEDERAL, STATE FUNDS

By Pat Hampton
Tribune Publisher

Narrow sidewalks that force parents and students into the street, scouring around piers have prompted the city to approve a \$319,000 grant to study the replacement of the Berry Street bridge than spans the Napa River by the elementary school. Public works director Dan Takasugi asked city council members to accept the grant from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) from its Highway Bridge Program funding. The purpose of the program, Takasugi said in his report, is to

replace or rehabilitate public highway bridges over waterways and other barriers. About \$240 million in federal funds are made available annually to local agencies. When Takasugi found out about the opportunity to obtain full funding for replacement of the bridge, he submitted an application to the MTC in September and received word the \$319,000 grant had been approved on Dec. 19. Last week Takasugi asked the city council to accept the grant and allow preliminary engineering

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Politics heat up winter’s cold days

By Pat Hampton
Tribune Publisher

Calistoga politics are warming up in the winter’s cold days as supporters and opponents of the Enchanted Resorts project begin to court voters. Enchanted Resorts, a new 110-room development proposed on 88 wooded acres on the hillside of Diamond Mountain, is the subject

See *POLITICS* page 8

Dog park has council go-ahead, plus \$15K donation

By Michelle Wing
Tribune Senior Staff Writer

It’s time to start wagging tails, because the Calistoga Dog Park is finally becoming a reality. What began as a dream several years ago has materialized in two very concrete ways: a plot of land on the Logvy Property, and a \$15,000 donation to get the project off and running. Scott Atkinson, lead voice for the Calistoga Dog Park group, announced formally

on Wednesday that he had received a \$15,000 check from the family trust run by Pam and Paul Ingalls of Calistoga. That, following closely on the heels of the Calistoga City Council’s approval of an agreement to lease the Logvy site to the group for the fee of \$1 a year means that this project is ready to take off. The site is located between the Calistoga Community Garden and North Oak Street, near the Calistoga Community Pool

and the Napa County Fairgrounds. It was at one point designated as a potential home for a new Teen Center, but since there are currently no funds for that project, the City has granted the dog park folks temporary use of the land, with the understanding that they may have to move at some point in the future. Atkinson said the dog park itself will consist of a

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