

Calistoga Tribune

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PHOTO BY PAT HAMPTON



Friday, Jan. 27, 2012

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Reservoir fills, storm drops 7.8" of rain in five days

BELOW

▼ **DISTRICT OUTLAY**
Study shows Calistoga has high dollars per student ratio

BELOW

◀ **'CATS VS MUSTANGS**
Wildcat basketball teams fail to rein in St. Vincent

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Chariot race, anyone?



PHOTO BY MICHELLE WING

The charioteers in Wednesday's race at Calistoga High School were (front to back) Lupita Mendoza, Orion Harrell, Lexi Monhoff and Marisol Mendoza. Their "steeds" (front to back) were Jose Sanchez, Lily Waggoner, Max Caldera and Lindsey Aviña.

MODERN-DAY GLADIATORS

Calistoga High School students engaged in the "Battle Royale: Clash of the Civilizations 2012 B.C." this week, starting off with a Barbarian Brunch on Monday. On Wednesday, the Egyptian Chariot Race in the quad drew a cheering crowd, as skateboards became chariots and teams rolled to victory. Thursday the teens

played Aztec Ball, and the week concludes today with a Battle Royale at a rally. Each competition garnered the players points, and the class with the most points at the end of day today will earn a pizza party for their greatness. The Associated Student Body members dreamed up the week of neo-classical shenanigans.

Elder scam hits close to home

By Michelle Wing

Tribune Senior Staff Writer

If it weren't for an alert bookkeeper at Safeway, Virginia Dooley would have lost \$4,600 to a scam artist on Monday.

Still shaking, the 92-year-old Dooley came into the Tribune office that afternoon to share her story, in hopes she could save other seniors from experiencing the same nightmare.

It had all started that morning when Dooley and her husband Jess, 95, received a phone call. It was her grandson Jim. He said he was calling from Bolivia, where he had flown to be in a friend's wedding. He told her he had been in a serious car accident and was in jail, because the authorities thought it was his fault. Jim said they would release him from jail if Dooley wired him \$4,600.

His voice sounded odd, Dooley said. But Jim explained that his nose had been broken in the accident, so he was talking funny. He asked her not to call anyone else in the family, because he was embar-

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City debates area, costs for repaying upgrades

By Pat Hampton

Tribune Publisher

A plan to reimburse Solage Resort for the \$4 million it spent on city required infrastructure improvements still needs tweaking, councilmembers said this week.

The City Council and property owners met Tuesday in a study session to discuss the proposed boundaries of a benefit district and allocation of costs per parcel for paying for water, sewer and storm drain improvements that the resort made above and beyond what it needed for its own project.

In 2001 when the City Council approved the Palisades Spa and Resort Project on a 25.86 acre site on the Silverado Trail, developers agreed to install enough utility improvements to meet its own

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Lava Vine Winery decision delayed

By Michelle Wing

Tribune Senior Staff Writer

Joseph and Jill Cabral of Lava Vine asked for a two-week continuance Wednesday night of their application for a conditional use permit to build a new winery.

In an e-mail dated Jan. 18, Joseph Cabral asked for the extension, having told the planning department that more time was needed for city staff to conduct research on traffic impacts for the proposed winery, which would be located on the same property as their tasting room at 965 Silverado Trail.

The Cabrals hope to build a new 30,000 gallon (approximately

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Storm drops 7.8' of rain in 5 days

By Pat Hampton

Tribune Publisher

This week's warm, iconic sunny days belie the stormy weekend that poured almost eight inches of rain onto Calistoga streets and hillsides in a five-day passing cold front.

Tribune weatherman Larry Kuzdenyi says the storm dropped 4.1 inches of precipitation from

Thursday through Saturday, and added another 3.7 inches between Sunday and Monday for a total of 7.8 inches of rainfall.

"We were way behind when this thing started," Kuzdenyi said. "We had a total of 5.5 inches for the year, now we're up to 13.3 inches."

The measured rainfall by this time in 2011 was an impressive 22.2 inches by Jan. 24. In 2011,

storms would fill rain gauges for a grand total of 51.05 inches falling during the rain season, which runs from July 1 to June 30.

The last time it rained in Calistoga was on Dec. 30, Kuzdenyi said, when he measured 0.05 inches in his two rain gauges on Fourth Street.

"I had to shake the gauge to

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CJUSD dollar per student outlay favorable compared to neighbors

By Michelle Wing

Tribune Senior Staff Writer

Calistoga's school district has one of the highest dollars-per-student ratios when compared to neighboring areas, according to a private research company.

Based on figures provided by www.education.com, an inde-

pendent internet resource designed for parent use, Calistoga Joint Unified School District (CJUSD) spends \$12,823 per student each year.

To put that in perspective, Tribune staff selected five other districts to run comparisons with: St. Helena, Napa Valley, Windsor, Cloverdale and Healdsburg. Also

included, besides the dollar amount, is number of students, number of schools, teacher-to-student ratio, percentages spent on instruction and support, and the percentage of English learner students. All numbers are based on www.education.com statistics.

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