

July 29, 2022

ONE BIG BUY

Montana couple buys entire  
inventory of local antiques store

BELOW ▼



# City Council women make court appearances on separate cases

By Kim Beltran  
Tribune Editor

The two female members of Calistoga’s City Council appeared in separate cases before a Napa County Superior Court judge last week.

Vice mayor Irais Lopez-Ortega was in court again last week to face the four felony charges of elder abuse filed against her by the Napa County District Attorney’s Office in August of last year.

As it has been numerous times since she first appeared last August, the hearing on the charges against Lopez-Ortega



Irais Lopez-Ortega

Lisa Marie Gift

was continued to Sept. 1 and 2 to allow her attorney time to review newly-released, subpoenaed records from Adventist Health St. Helena.

Lisa Gift, elected to the City

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# Donald Williams pulls papers to run for mayor; six to seek council seats

By Kim Beltran  
Tribune Editor

As of Wednesday afternoon, two men had pulled nomination papers to run for mayor and six had taken out the papers to run for one of two available City Council seats.

Only one person -- financial planner Paul Knoblich, a candidate for City Council -- has returned the papers for filing with the city clerk.

Current City Council member Donald Williams, whose term expires in November, on Monday pulled papers to run for mayor. He joins current City Council

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Kevin Eisenberg



Donald Williams



Curtis Winslow



Spiro Makras



Eugene Gorman



Paul Knoblich



Scott Cooper

■ Because incumbents on the City Council are not running for office, the filing deadline is extended to Aug. 17, according to Calistoga City Clerk Marni Rittburg.



PHOTO BY CLARK JAMES MISHLER

Nuns from Calistoga’s Holy Assumption Monastery, along with a few friends/volunteers, harvest lavender from a property near the city. The flowers will be distilled to produce essential oil to sell in the Monastery book store/gift shop.

# Montana couple buy nearly entire Rags to Riches inventory

By Anne Ward Ernst  
For the Tribune

When a couple walked into the Rags to Riches antiques store one spring day, no one expected them to wipe out the inventory in one fell swoop.

Well, almost everything.

“The dartboard is sacred,” said Sallie Durbin of Rags to Riches, so it stayed on the wall.

And the vinyl LP records stayed behind at Rags to Riches, too, because music is at the heart of owner Gary Himmelfarb’s soul and the way he has earned a living most of his

life, he said.

But most of what was displayed in the store located in a former house at 1125 Lincoln Ave. is now living in Billings, Montana. Brad and Andi Halsten didn’t anticipate buying everything in the store, but it made sense as the couple sat and talked it out.

Durbin said the purchase started out with just a few items that Andi selected. Then Andi “stopped, stared at one wall, then started moving 360-degrees, looking around the room,” Durbin said. Andi went quiet. Then Andi said, “I want to buy the whole store,”

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Rags to Riches owner Gary Himmelfarb (in front) poses with Billings, Montana residents Brad and Andi Halsten. The couple purchased almost all of the items in the antiques store at 1125 Lincoln Ave. on a recent visit to Calistoga.

PHOTO BY  
KIM BELTRAN

# SCENT-ILLATING HARVEST

## Monastery nuns gather local lavender plants to make essential oil, hydrosol

By Kim Beltran  
Tribune Editor

The sisters of the Holy Assumption Monastery are always up to something, whether it be administering to the sick and homeless, putting the finishing touches on new, wooden caskets or making cookies and granola to sell in their quaint gift shop/bookstore on Washington Street.

Last Thursday, several of the nuns, along with a few friends/volunteers, harvested a large load of lavender -- enough to produce 1,000 pounds of material after

distilling it to bottle essential oils and hydrosol, the water product that remains after distillation. Once bottled, the oil and the hydrosol will be sold in the Monastery’s book store/gift shop, which serves as a fundraiser for the sisters’ meager living expenses as well as their philanthropic endeavors.

“We have sisters who really look forward to the day of harvesting,” said Mother Macrina, who has been harvesting lavender in the Calistoga area since 2014.

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