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FILE PHOTO BY CHICK HARRITY

The Fireworks Sky Concert highlights the Napa County Fair tomorrow night at dusk.

Grab a seat, cold drink and put your chair on the shady side of Lincoln Avenue

■ Silverado 4th of July parade kicks off County Fair

By Pat Hampton
Tribune Publisher

With weathermen predicting day temperatures in the mid-eighties, far below the 100+ that drove people inside at the beginning of the week, tomorrow's annual Silverado 4th of July Parade and Napa County Fair, officials are hoping both events will draw big crowds.

Locals will have their folding chairs, benches, stools, coolers and strollers tied together and placed on the shady side of Lincoln Avenue by early morning. Latecomers will have to find shade on the sunny west side in time for the 11 a.m. kick-off of the patriotic parade.

Parade Grand Marshall honors go to Trudy Boulogny, Calistoga's Citizen of the Year, who has spearheaded a reading program at the elementary school for the past decade through the Soroptimist club.

This will be the second year that the fair association has trimmed the once four-day fair to just one day. Carlene Moore, CEO of the association, said the change, for which she took a lot of criticism, would benefit the overall experience. She has said that the July 4 gate and customer count far surpassed the other fair days, and it would make financial sense to reduce the fair to one day.

The parade and fair have other



competitors that may have impacted the parade and county fair attendance. American Canyon and Napa both host parades on July 4, and Yountville, St. Helena, Napa

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PHOTO BY CHICK HARRITY

Dancers, floats, music, horses, old cars and more are part of the Silverado Parade tomorrow at 11 a.m.

Lawyer drains city's two bank accounts, leaves balance of 1¢

■ Crisis over in 48 hours after illegal action

By Pat Hampton
Tribune Publisher

Lawyer William McKinnon placed a lien against the city's bank account and withdrew all the city's funds, leaving the city literally with one cent in its bank account.

Court records show that McKinnon, who represents Grant Reynolds, a San Diego man who has sued the city three times and lost over water rights, aquatic habitat in the Napa River and public trust, levied a 'writ of execution' June 17 against the city's bank accounts and had the Sheriff's office serve a lien on the city's account and withdrew \$575,228.57 from two city accounts at WestAmerica bank.

The record states the city staff and attorney took quick action to mitigate the harm, quash the lien and get the city's money returned to the proper account.

"It was all over in 48 hours," said Mayor Chris Canning. "What he did was totally illegal."

On June 3, McKinnon recorded an abstract of judgment with the Napa County Recorder in the amount of \$575,203.57. By recording the abstract of judgment,

McKinnon attempted to create a judgment lien over all city property located in Napa County, the documents show. On June 17, the County Sheriff, at McKinnon's direction, levied a writ of execution on the city's bank accounts at WestAmerica Bank for \$575,228.57. That same day, WestAmerica Bank told the city manager Richard Spitler that the Sheriff had withdrawn \$575,228.57 from two of the city's accounts, leaving the city's General Operating Account with a balance, literally, of just one cent.

On June 18 WestAmerica bank sent McKinnon, who lives in Grass Valley, a letter explaining that the Enforcement of Judgements Law doesn't apply to the city and that it was going to release the funds to the city. The city attorney tried to contact McKinnon for two days, June 17-19, and didn't receive word from McKinnon and it wasn't until June 22 that the lawyer said he had been persuaded by conversation with the bank's lawyer that the levy against city funds "was inappropriate."

"Mr. McKinnon's illegal levy of a writ of execution on the City's bank accounts to collect the Fee Award was outrageous," wrote city Attorney Michelle Kenyon. "Any

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City encouraging water reduction during drought

■ People still conserving, May usage down to 22%

By Amanda Rhodes
Tribune Staff Writer

Despite the continued drought and consecutive scorching days marking the calendar, local wineries and residents continue to conserve water and remain optimistic, in spite of lack of rain.

Looking at the numbers, the month of May saw Calistoga residents saving 22 percent over the same month in 2013. The recent reduction almost meets the Governor's state ordered requirement of a 25 percent water reduction over 2013 that was issued for all communities in April.

Anais Hall, program manager for the City of Calistoga Water Conservation Team, said she hopes all residents will continue to save as we move into summer.

"During a heightened sense of emergency, many people are able to change but it can be hard to keep

those new activities going over an extended period of time," Hall said. Calistoga residents recorded increases in March and April compared to 2013. March saw a 22 percent increase and April a 1.5 increase.

Residential water reduction totals for June have not been calculated.

Laura Swanton, owner and proprietor of Laura Michael Wines in Calistoga, said the drought continues to have different effects on local wineries and vineyards but credits the area's fertile land for her winery's sustenance.

"We are very fortunate where we are located," Swanton said. She considers herself lucky because she does not have large wineries as neighbors, has not had to tap into different water resources like other wineries and considers Calistoga's aquifer to still be fairly healthy.

The lack of rain in the past three years has had its effects on the winery but nothing extremely drastic, Swanton, who has owned

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