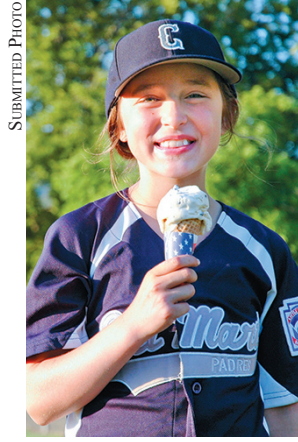


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SUBMITTED PHOTO

- ▶ **PUT IT TO THE VOTE?**
Referendum movement takes aim at Silver Rose
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Primary results are in – most chose not to participate
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- ▶ **BYE-BYE BASEBALL**
Little League celebrates end of a great season
- 12**



PHOTO BY PAT HAMPTON

City manager and acting city clerk Richard Spitler swears in new interim police chief Susan Jones at Tuesday's meeting.

New police chief takes office; council criticized by residents

By Pat Hampton
Tribune Publisher

New interim police chief Susan Jones was sworn into office Tuesday and returned the favor by promising to faithfully discharge her duties for the City of Calistoga.

Jones, who retired as the police chief of the City of Healdsburg

after eight and a half years as chief, currently serves on the Healdsburg city council as vice mayor.

"I really enjoy Calistoga; it reminds me of Healdsburg in so many ways and yet it is a little different and I appreciate the difference," Jones said. "I look forward to being here for however long it takes. Everyone I've met so far

has been just wonderfully welcoming and friendly and I just think this is going to be a great experience."

The city council also acknowledged police officer Michael Perrault for his five years as a member of the city's department.

The mood in the chambers then
See COUNCIL page 6

GRADUATION 2012



PHOTO BY PAT HAMPTON

Mads Peter Starling-Juhl, exchange student from Denmark, exchanges national flags with valedictorian Erin Lilly during graduation ceremonies Friday night at the fairgrounds.

CLASS OF 2012

By Pat Hampton
Tribune Publisher

Valedictorian Erin Lilly offered a list of memories that her classmates should cherish from their days spent together from kindergarten through Friday night when the 45 members of the Class of 2012 would go off and seek its futures.

See GRADUATION page 7



PHOTO BY PAT HAMPTON

Superintendent Esmeralda Mondragon reminded parents that their graduating seniors would still need their guidance and counsel.

Grand Jury report slams Measure A oversight system

Says Calistoga projects should not have been funded as submitted

By Pat Hampton
Tribune Publisher

A Grand Jury report on the use of Measure A flood tax money for city projects found that lax oversight by the county led to expenditures amounting to \$4.4 million for what it deemed were inappropriate projects for Calistoga.

The report, released last Thursday, said the Grand Jury received several complaints from local citizens over Napa County Flood Protection Sales Tax money expended on three projects: 1) \$1.27 million for the Mt.

Washington water tank, 2) over \$1 million for drainage improvements and water pipe reimbursements to Solage Resort, and 3) some \$700,000 in legal fees defending three lawsuits on water rights and a bypass plan for Kimball Dam.

After interviewing city officials and reviewing documents, the Grand Jury concluded that a flawed approval process allowed funds to be used for unintended purposes. Because written complaints to jurors were only about

See GRAND JURY page 2

Referendum may force new decision on future of Silver Rose Resort

By Michelle Wing
Tribune Senior Staff Writer

If you've noticed folks around town with clipboards in hand, you already know something's brewing.

A group of concerned citizens feel there may be a gap between the projects elected and appointed officials are approving, and what residents really want for Calistoga. So they've decided to settle the matter the old fashioned way – by putting it to a vote, in the form of a local referendum.

Don Williams is the unofficial head of the referendum movement, which specifically targets the Silver Rose Resort project. The Silver Rose Venture LLC received final City Council

approval on May 15 to move forward with their plans to demolish the old resort on the Silverado Trail and build a new one with an 85-room hotel, restaurant, spa, expanded winery and 21 single-family homes on a 22.5 acre site.

If Williams and his fellow petition bearers gather enough signatures, the Council would be forced

See REFERENDUM page 6



Don Williams