

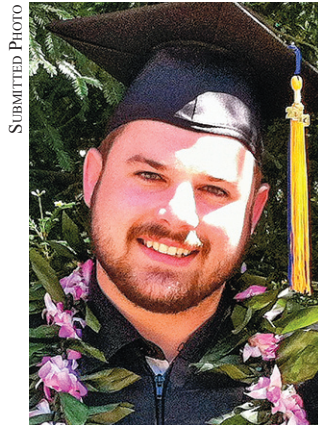
Calistoga Tribune

Independently owned and published in Calistoga for Calistogans since 2002

50¢

Friday, June 21, 2013

- ▼ **BUDGET IN BLACK**
\$2 million reserve in General Fund bank by June 2014
- BELOW
- ◀ **GRADUATES FROM UCSC**
Five CHS Alumni graduate together from UC Santa Cruz
- ▶ **RECREATION ACTIVITIES**
Day Camps and Adult Softball league take over Logvy Park



Trustees hear worries over proposed changes in music classes

By Noah Hampton-Asmus

Tribune Staff Writer

A proposition from the previous administration at the elementary school had parents and teachers up in arms at the school board meeting Monday night, defending the school's music program that could possibly be altered for the upcoming school year.

It was proposed that the elementary school's performance band become an after school program and music teacher Nina Pedersen would become a part-time teacher during prep-periods.

Each week, elementary school teachers receive an hour as a prep-period to get orga-

nized and to plan their next classes. When teachers take this prep-period, another part time teacher takes on the responsibility of the classroom. Last year physical education and computer lab classes filled this preparatory period. Because of the integration of technology in the classrooms, computer lab is being removed for this upcoming school year.

The suggestion is for music class and physical education to alternate weeks to fill the one hour prep-period for every teachers. So music would be taught to every student at the elementary school either for an hour every two weeks, or a half hour every

week.

"We are not cutting the music program," said superintendent Esmeralda Mondragon. The school has enough money in the budget for a full music program. In fact, it would cost the school more to schedule band performance classes as an afterschool program.

The change is an attempt to bolster the music program, said Mondragon. It is believed that reaching more students at younger ages would encourage more enthusiasm for music in the upper grades when kids are able to be a part of the school bands.

Kindergarten teacher Martha McCoy ar-

gued that this new model would stress the music program, and stretch Pedersen too thin handling the band classes for the Jr./Sr. High School as well. McCoy was one of three teachers and 11 speakers to confront the superintendent and school board in Monday's meeting.

Retired teacher Jacki Lang wanted the board to stand by its mission statement of being a "collaborative, culturally rich education community" and listen to suggestions that parents and teachers were proposing as well before taking any action.

See **BOARD** page 3

FLAG FLIP-FLOP

"The City of Calistoga urges our fellow residents and city leaders to join in this annual celebration, promoting visibility of and connection among Calistoga's and Napa's LGBTQ people and allies for the greater good of our entire city."

—Richard Spitler
City Manager
Tuesday, June 11



PHOTO BY SCOTT KLINEPIER

City will draft new flag flying policy after rainbow flag-raising questioned

By Noah Hampton-Asmus

Tribune Staff Writer

With a nod of approval and no actual vote taken, the city council agreed that the rainbow Gay Pride flag could fly at City Hall for Napa County's extended Gay Pride Week, June 14-23.

However, without any official ordinance in place, it was the recommendation of the city's attorney that the flag should be taken down because of possible backlash from a public record request by Kurt Larrecou.

Larrecou wanted to find out if any flag can fly on the City Hall flag pole because he thinks

any group should be able to fly their flag proudly to "honor everybody's passion."

The flag went up on Friday and received its first bit of criticism later that afternoon.

The only other comment that the city received about the flag being up came from former mayor Jack Gingles who was concerned that statement flags should not be allowed in proximity to the official government flags. Gingles said he has no objection to the city celebrating gay pride, or any other cause, as long as it is not using the official flagpole.

The flag flew for three days

and was brought down Monday until a flag ordinance is brought to the community and the city council to be debated, drafted, and passed.

Calistoga resident Scott Klinepier brought up the subject of flying the flag for Gay Pride week at the May 7 city council meeting during the public comment period.

Mayor Chris Canning then directed City Manager Richard Spitler to find out about flag etiquette to make this happen. Spitler found as long as it was not flown higher than the stars

See **FLAG** page 11

Budget in the black, council optimistic

By Pat Hampton

Tribune Publisher

With a sense of relief that the worst recession since last century may be lifting, the city council approved a \$11 million budget with all major funds in the black.

"It's a great relief to me to see we've turned the corner," said council member Gray Kraus of the 2013/2014 fiscal year budget.

The budget still requires transfers of money to cover shortfalls in the water and wastewater operations funds which are supposed to be self-sustaining, cautioned Mayor Chris Canning. He reminded the city council that a study session will be held in July to address the possible raise in rates to consumers next January.

By the end of June 2014, all seven city funds will still have

money in the bank, said administrative services director Gloria Leon, including a \$2 million reserve in the general fund.

Leon said the \$3.9 million income expected from Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) is still the largest contributor to the general fund, followed by property taxes at \$1.6 million and sales tax at \$922,000.

The police department services take the biggest bite out of the budget with \$2.3 million in expenses, with public works budgeted at \$980,000, planning and building at \$896,000, fire services at \$819,000, recreation at \$582,000 and city council at \$162,000.

Leon said the budget includes an additional \$50,000 for anticipated health benefit increases for

See **BUDGET** page 11

NC Fair Association passes new bylaws

By Olivia Morgan

Tribune Cub Reporter

Tensions ran high Thursday night when the Napa County Fair Association voted on and passed a set of controversial new bylaws.

The six new laws address issues such as residency of fair board members and board diversity requirements and will put the Fair Association in compliance with California non-profit codes. Adapting to these codes makes the Association eligible for grants that, up until this point, they were unable to receive.

The new bylaws also restart the terms of all existing board members and keep members from receiving compensation for their duties in the Fair Association.

Some members had previously relayed their worries over email, but they and others attended the weekly board meeting on Thursday, June 13, and took the time to voice their concerns to the board in hopes of receiving some answers to their uncertainties before the ballots were counted. The Board of Directors was also given an opportunity to explain its reasoning behind proposing the new laws.

One of the anxieties expressed by members was the lack of clarity provided by board members as to which non-profit codes the bylaws were meant to be in compliance with, as well as confusion over wording within the laws themselves, where the new bylaws come into conflict with existing

See **BYLAWS** page 11