



- ▼ **BUYING PROPERTY**
City in contract for purchase of Earl Street property for housing
Below
- ◀ **JOB WELL DONE**
Two city employees honored for combined 20 years of service
3
- ◀ **SPECIAL SURGERY**
St. Helena Hospital doctors perform life-changing surgery
5

City to consider broadening fire inspections, charging fees

■ Schools, care homes, apartments, businesses could be among those on annual check list

By Kim Beltran
Tribune Editor

The city is considering changes to its annual fire safety inspection program that could include charging fees and expanding the types of businesses and structures subject to the regulations.

Annual inspections are currently conducted by Fire Department staff free of charge at restaurants, hotels, motels and bed and breakfast inns, according to a staff report from Calistoga Fire Chief Steve Campbell.

An initial proposal submitted to the City Council Tuesday night for review suggests setting a fee of \$134 per hour for inspections and \$67 for re-inspections not exceeding 30 minutes. The staff report also suggests adding apartment buildings, schools, care homes, places of assembly and general businesses to the list of those that should be subject to annual fire safety checks.

City manager Dylan Feik told council members Tuesday night that the December 2016 warehouse fire in Oakland prompted him to ask Campbell to assess the city's fire safety inspection program.

Thirty-six people died in the warehouse, known as the Ghost Ship, which was home to an artist collective. Though the exact cause of the fire was never determined, renters had reported electrical problems years earlier to the building's owner. There was no sprinkler system, and firefighters on

See *INSPECTIONS* page 6

Getting acquainted



Erin Smith-Hagberg, newly-hired superintendent of the Calistoga Joint Unified School District, chats with a young student (left) Monday night during a gathering to introduce her to the school community. Below, Smith-Hagberg gets acquainted with Trudy Bouligny, who coordinates a book donation program and the Read Aloud Partners Program for Calistoga Soroptimists.

PHOTOS BY KIM BELTRAN

School community hosts meet-n-greet for superintendent

By Kim Beltran
Tribune Editor

She doesn't officially take over as superintendent until July 3 but Erin Smith-Hagberg got to meet some of Calistoga Joint Unified School District's movers and shakers Monday night.

From members of the PTA – which organized the gathering to introduce her – to those with the English

See *MEET* on page 12



Resorts, PD aim to limit bike thefts

By Claudia Aceves
Tribune Reporter

Some local resorts are cracking down on the thefts of bicycles they keep on hand for guests to use.

New ownership at Solage recently became aware of significant property loss in the form of stolen bikes meant for the use of hotel guests.

"We are in the business of making money, not losing it," said Forest Grummer, the resort's director of facilities. "We need to protect our investments."

Grummer over the course of the past two weeks spent time driving around town in an effort to recover stolen Solage bikes, and with the help of the Calistoga Police Department recovered 10 bikes.

Grummer said they also recovered

See *THEFTS* on page 11

Council puts \$1.8 million toward unfunded benefits

By Kim Beltran
Tribune Editor

The City Council Tuesday night made a hefty contribution toward its unfunded liabilities in the California Public Employees' Retirement System.

The \$1.8 million payment to CalPERS will save the city nearly \$5 million over three decades.

"What this essentially does for Calistoga residents by putting \$1.8 million towards our future pension payments means a reduced payment each year of \$170,000 for the next 30 years and a total cost avoidance of just over \$5 million," said City Manager Dylan Feik.

Unfunded liabilities in the pension system are employee retirement ben-

See *PAYMENT* on page 12

City buying vacant Earl Street property for housing stock



PHOTO BY KIM BELTRAN

The Calistoga City Council voted to pursue a contract to purchase this vacant lot at 1417 Earl Street for \$472,000. The money will come from developer impact fees set aside to expand the city's inventory of affordable housing.

By Kim Beltran
Tribune Editor

The city is pursuing the purchase of a vacant quarter-acre lot at the end of Earl Street most likely with the intent to develop affordable work-force housing.

The City Council Tuesday night authorized city manager Dylan Feik to negotiate the purchase of the property at 1417 Earl Street from owners Carolynne and Howard Clair and Mark Wilkinson for \$472,000.

The money will come from the city's Affordable Housing fund, created with fees paid by project developers for various impacts new development has on the community.

"This money is set aside to be used for proj-

ects related specifically to affordable housing...to be used for housing projects," Feik told council members. "And certainly over the last several months there's been ongoing discussions about workforce housing and the need to find a solution to the concerns and borderline crisis that is occurring in Napa County related to work-force housing."

As one of the city's top goals is to develop housing that is affordable for the people who live and work in Calistoga, the council has worked this year to not only acquire land and build housing but also eliminate barriers that keep others from contributing to the local

See *PURCHASE* on page 6