**Educators fly to DC for Blue Ribbon ceremony**

**By Amanda Rhodes**

Teachers flew to the nation’s capital to accept the prestigious 2014 National Blue Ribbon School award this week on behalf of Calistoga Elementary.

Kindergarten teacher Martha McCoy and Calistoga Elementary School Principal Vicka Llamas received the award at a festive lunch ceremony Tuesday afternoon in Washington D.C. held in honor of the 337 schools that obtained the recognition.

“Earning the National Blue Ribbon Award is certainly a great achievement, but also a reminder of the planning, effort, and diligence required of students, teachers, support staff, and administration in order to achieve it’s goals,” said Pam RubeI, CES kindergarten teacher who attended the trip.

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan recognized CES on Sept. 30 as one of the schools to receive the award based on progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups. The schools awarded the honor demonstrate that all students can achieve high levels.

We have closed the achievement gap at CES over the past 5-7 years through data-informed instruction, strategic interventions by talented specialists and para-professionals, through the support of our community partners, and our own school-based upvalley family resource center,” McCoy said.

This year’s National Blue Ribbon Ceremony focused on excellence, equity and empowerment for students with an emphasis on community and early childhood education.

In addition to attending the ceremony Tuesday afternoon in Washington D.C. held in honor of all the schools that received the award, CES was presented with a plaque from former U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan recognizing CES on the 337 schools that obtained the recognition.

**Lemen leaving as rec manager for Windsor job**

**By Amanda Rhodes**

Calistoga will be looking for a replacement as Olivia Lemen steps down as recreation services manager.

“I have thoroughly enjoyed my almost six years here and will miss the small, close community that I have grown to love so much,” Lemen said.

Lemen has accepted a new position in Windsor's Park and Recreation Department where they are hoping to build a pool in the near future, something she’s excited to be part of once again.

The new position allows her to be closer to home and spend more time with her two young children.

According to Lemen, leaving Calistoga will not be easy but she’ll take away the many memories she’s made in her nearly six years as recreation services manager.

“I love this small community and the people in it, so it’s hard to pick, but specifically I have loved growing the pool. I feel so committed to the facility, the staff, the programs and the participants,” Lemen said.

Lemen’s last day as recreation services manager will be Nov. 20.

The open full-time position in the Public Works Department is directly responsible for overseeing the activities and operations of the recreation services division including aquatics, recreation, transit, senior programs and community services.

The position also includes receiving Calistoga Day services replacement as Olivia Lemen steps down as recreation services manager.

**VETERANS DAY SERVICES LOOK BACK AT WWII**

**By Amanda Rhodes**

Nearly 100 people, all with a common mission, gathered Tuesday morning at Loggy Park to thank and honor all veterans and their families who have served and sacrificed.

The Veterans Memorial, the ideal backdrop for the annual Veterans Day National Ceremony, is a year-round tribute to all who have dedicated their loyal service and is the only memorial of its kind in Napa County.

“We thank you for putting the needs of the many above the needs of the one,” Ken Flynn, Commander of the American Legion Post 231, said, in the opening remarks of the ceremony.

Mayor Chris Canning, grandson of a WWII veteran and son of a Vietnam veteran, delivered a letter from Congressman Mike Thompson stating every day we should give thanks to our veterans.

“Iola Hitt, 95, who enlisted in the Women’s Army Corp in WWII and retired as First Lieutenant, is helped by her son Doug Hitt when WWII vets were asked to stand and be recognized.

**Agenda Notes**

**Tuesday, Nov. 18, 7 p.m.**

The city council will discuss and introduce ordinances updating the City’s development impact fees and nonresidential development nonresidential housing linkage fees. Also on the agenda, the renovation of the Calistoga Branch of the Napa County Library.