



PHOTO BY PAT HAMPTON

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## Signs of the times?

**By Pat Hampton**  
Tribune Publisher

A sign of the times? Political intrigue or outright thievery?

Apparently it was a Caltrans worker just doing his job.

With some 500 political signs ordered and beginning to appear on neighborhood lawns and along roadsides, alarm was raised late Tuesday morning when several signs went missing.

City Council candidate Carl Sherrill reported the theft of at least 11 of his campaign signs to the police department. Eight of the signs had been posted on Foothill Boulevard in front of homes of supporters, he said.

Caltrans lead worker Bill Clemons confirmed on Wednesday that Caltrans had sent out a worker to clear the state right-of-way of illegally posted signs and said that Sherrill's signs were among them. "If it's on state property, then we pulled them," Clemons said. "If people are driving along and then get distracted by a sign on our property, it becomes a liability issue."

The local Caltrans station is responsible for removing errant political, yard sale, real estate, and other signs that appear on Highway 29 and Highway 128 from Rutherford to Jimtown, Clemons said.

Illegal signs that are removed from the roadsides are brought back to the Tubbs Lane maintenance station where they can be recovered. Sherrill picked up his errant signs Wednesday morning at the yard.

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PHOTO BY PAT HAMPTON

Mike Mogensen and Linda Voudy and their dog Racer, who live at the end of Money Lane, share different views on Measure B.

## 'A house divided' takes a light-hearted stand on how one couple will vote on Measure B

**By Pat Hampton**  
Tribune Publisher

After attending a half-hour presentation at the Silver Rose Inn last Sunday on the merits of the project and its impact on Calistoga, life-long partners Mike Mogensen and Linda Voudy returned home and put their support behind political signs.

In front of their Money Lane home now hang

two signs, one saying "No on B" and the other "Yes on B."

"We went to the presentation, had a glass of wine, and when we got ready to leave, they asked if she wanted a sign and she said 'yes,'" Mogensen said. "She folded like a tent. I said you're not putting that sign up at our house."

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■ Vote By Mail ballots from Napa County Elections Department are scheduled to go out the week of Oct. 8.

■ Household deliveries of the state Voter Information Guide (Ballot Pamphlet) began Tuesday. You should have yours by now.

■ There are 2,130 registered voters in Calistoga; 83.7 percent of Calistoga municipal voters use Vote By Mail.

■ The Secretary of State announced this week the availability, for the first time, of online voter registration. Go to [www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections\\_vr.htm](http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections_vr.htm)

■ The last day to register to vote and still be eligible to vote in the Nov. 6 election is Oct. 22.

■ Vote By Mail voters should receive their ballot approximately 20 days before Election Day. The voted ballot should be placed in the return envelope, sealed and the envelope signed. The ballot can be dropped in the USPS mail up until the Thursday before the Nov. 6 election.

■ In statewide voter turnout Napa County ranks in the top 10 counties having more than 50,000 registered voters.

## School districts rescind formal JPA

**By Michelle Wing**  
Tribune Senior Staff Writer

At a joint session between Calistoga Joint Unified School District and St. Helena Unified School District on Tuesday, the two entities agreed to rescind a formal joint power agreement they had entered into a year previously because of the prohibitive cost of obtaining insurance coverage.

The Up Valley Support Services Joint Powers Agreement (UVSSJPA) was formed at a special joint meeting on June 7, 2011. The idea was for the entity to allow the two districts to collaborate in areas such as transportation, facilities management, special education, and technology. JPAs have been used effectively in other counties to leverage buying power, allowing smaller districts to unite and pool their resources when going to the bargaining table.

Unfortunately, according to

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## Bike plan approved as guide for future

**By Michelle Wing**  
Tribune Senior Staff Writer

The Planning Commission is recommending that the City Council adopt the 2012 Bicycle Transportation Plan (BTP) as a guide for the development of a comprehensive bicycling system throughout the city and local planning area.

Previously, the Napa County Transportation and Planning Agency (NCTPA) prepared a City Bicycle Plan, a 25-year vision developed through a public process involving review by the local Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC), the Planning Commission and the City Council, as well as others invested in bicycle-related issues.

After review in March and April, it was adopted by the NCTPA in May. The next step

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## No easy answers to fix stone bridge woes

**By Pat Hampton**  
Tribune Publisher

What to do with a 110-year-old bridge that is too narrow, suffering from severe scour and is rated a low 3 on a scale of 9 being new and 1 for those that are closed to traffic?

Seven representatives from the Caltrans district office in Oakland came to Calistoga this week to discuss the future of the historic stone bridge that spans the seasonal Garnett Creek near Palisades Road on Highway 29.

Across the table from the transportation experts was a roomful of residents who live near the bridge as well as fans of the historic

span. Supervisor Diane Dillon hosted Tuesday night's meeting that, after two hours, ended with the same question it started with: what to do with a 110-year-old bridge – replace it at its current location, replace it with a new bridge in a different location, or do nothing until it fails?

"It's not going to fall down tomorrow," said Patrick Pang, District 4 office chief in the Office of Advance Planning for the North Bay office that serves Marin, Napa, Solano and Sonoma counties. "This is not a doomsday thing. We're not coming up here saying we're taking down the bridge." Pang said safety

issues required the traffic engineers to consider the bridge's future and to consider alternatives.

Because there is no funding available to start a study on environmental impacts and engineering challenges, including an Environmental Impact Report (EIR), Pang reassured the 50 people in attendance that "You're not going to wake up one weekend and have a new bridge out there." He said it would take 2-4 years to complete required evaluations and alternatives.

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