

# Calistoga Tribune

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▼ **A NORTH POLE FIESTA**  
Sisters visiting North Pole will leave behind a gift

BELOW

◀ **AN EAGLE GETS WINGS**  
Marat Ford earns Eagle rank at Court of Honor on July 10

6

▶ **A FIRST FOR CALISTOGA**  
Jim Flamson named Gov. of Rotary District 5130

7

## Delay of bakery opening has mayor, council upset

Health department says flooring doesn't meet code

By Kim Beltran  
Tribune Editor

A dispute between a local property owner and the county's Department of Environmental Management has delayed the opening of a new bakery and also has Calistoga's mayor fighting mad.

When two Council members mentioned Tuesday night that they had received phone calls from the upset

property owner, Ronald Gill, mayor Jack Gingles went on a tirade, accusing department director Steve Lederer of "playing games" and holding Calistoga property owners hostage.

Stuck in the middle is local contractor Bill Nance, who says that while he understands Lederer's position, he doesn't agree with it. Even more frus-

See **BAKERY** page 12



Local contractor Bill Nance points to the vinyl baseboard that is at the center of property owner Charlotte and Ronald Gill's dispute with the Napa County Health Department. Correcting the issue to meet code, says Nance, is complicated and will be expensive.

PHOTO BY KIM BELTRAN

*'Thank you. I'll always remember today.'*

## Callie meets Calistoga and mayor Gingles

By Kim Beltran  
Tribune Editor

As if her big round eyes and strawberry blonde curls weren't enough to endear her to everyone she met here Tuesday, Callie Scout Harries melted the hearts of City Council members, staff and a roomful of people with six words, spoken softly with a very English accent: "Thank you. I'll always remember today."

The adorable little seven-year old, named for Calistoga because her parents love it so much, was honored Tuesday night by the City Council with a proclamation recognizing her as a "special individual" with "a strong connection to the community."

Earlier that day, her parents, Tony and Rachel Harries, who with Callie

See **CALLIE** page 12



Callie Scout Harries, 7, looks at a City of Calistoga pin that mayor Jack Gingles, right, brought as a gift for the seven-year old. At left is Callie's dad, Tony, who fell in love with Calistoga on a visit here more than 20 years ago. After he married, he and his wife visited the city several times and, in 2003, when their daughter was born, they named her after their favorite vacation destination. The City Council honored the girl with a proclamation Tuesday night.

PHOTO BY KIM BELTRAN

## Larrecou pulls paperwork to run for mayor

Councilman Gary Kraus, whose term is up, mulling decision on running for mayor or council

By Kim Beltran  
Tribune Editor

The election of Calistoga's next mayor is shaping up to be an interesting contest.

Current mayor Jack Gingles is seeking reelection on Nov. 2. Three others had pulled the paperwork necessary to be placed on the ballot but as of Wednesday, only Gingles had filed the completed papers, according to an email from City Clerk Su Sneddon.

The other potential candidates are Calistoga Inn owner and current City Councilman Michael Dunsford, and Kurt Larrecou, a self-employed real estate broker and environmental consultant. Dunsford has two years remaining in his City Council term so if his bid for mayor falls short, he remains on the Council.

City Councilman Gary Kraus, whose four-year term is up at year's end, has pulled the election paperwork for both the mayor's post as well

See **ELECTION** page 11

Calistoga sisters Melanie Lomba Howard (left) and Dr. Josephine LaVonne Lomba are heading off on a three-week adventure on Aug. 3, that will culminate in a visit to the North Pole. The sisters went to the South Pole in 2007, and with this trip, they will have stepped foot on every continent on the earth.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

## Sisters delivering quirky gift to North Pole

By Michelle Wing  
Tribune Staff Writer

It's the wrong time of year for Santa Claus – but the Lomba sisters are heading to the North Pole anyway.

On Aug. 3, Dr. Josephine LaVonne Lomba and Melanie Lomba Howard will embark on a three week adventure, with the ultimate goal being to deliver a special item to the North Pole – a Fiestaware plate.

The sisters, who now live in houses on Arch Way and Cedar Street in Calistoga, are natives of East Liverpool, Ohio. East Liverpool, a town of 13,000, is known as the "Pottery Capital of the World," and

was once home to 42 potteries.

Among the three that remain is the now-famous Homer Laughlin China Company, maker of Fiestaware. The city used to be a thriving center for all things ceramic. But when the Japanese came out with the unbreakable, dishwasher proof Melmac, East Liverpool lost much of its business, and fell into economic decline. Only Fiestaware maintained its strong consumer appeal.

LaVonne and Melanie are proud promoters of their native city's product. So they have become emissaries. First stop on their tour is a trip to England, where they will meet with the Chamber of Commerce in Liverpool. There, they will present a

chocolate-colored commemorative 2011 Fiestaware plate to the Chamber of their sister city.

The sisters will take in a Shakespearean play at the Globe Theater, and there will also be a short jaunt to Holland. Then they're off for the big adventure to the north.

Their ship lands in Iceland, where the Lombas will stay for three days, then stops over for Greenland for a day. LaVonne said she plans to seek out a tourist shop and stock up on 2011 calendars in Greenland. "Don't you think everybody would want one?"

See **EXPEDITION** page 3