

Calistoga Tribune

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The Candidates Speak: Forums 2010



PHOTO BY PAT HAMPTON

The Community Center was filled to capacity on Monday night to hear council, mayor and supervisor candidates speak out on the issues. Here, supervisor Diane Dillon is at the microphone.

Transparency, pensions, RSO top list of questions

Candidates stump for Nov. 2 elections

By Pat Hampton
Tribune Publisher

Transparency, city employee pensions, mobile home park rents and leadership are the Gordian knots that voters are hoping candidates will unravel if they win a seat on city council Nov. 2.

Monday's candidate forum gathered an audience of 90 listeners and nine candidates. Incumbent Diane Dillon and challenger Jeff Parady opened the evening by answering questions posed for the two opponents who are running for the District 3 seat on the Napa County board of supervisors.

Dillon and Parady were the top two vote getters in a three-way race in the June 8 primary. Dillon pulled 48.9 percent of voters and Parady 36.4 percent. A third contestant, Michael Haley of Yountville, had 14.6 percent of the vote.

Mayor Jack Gingles and sitting council member Mike Dunsford along with real estate broker Kurt Larrecou were presented questions for the mayor's contest. Chris Canning, Gary Kraus, Dennis McNay and Jennifer Barkley are on the ballot for two open city council seats.

Moderator Michael Byrne, a retired superior court judge, hosted the evening, pulling questions from slips of paper that lay folded in a wire basket at the podium.

Dillon offered her seven years as an experienced supervisor and her staunch support of defending the county agricultural preserve and county's general plan as reasons for re-election.

Parady questioned Dillon's support of the Lake Luciano project and said he would work to recapture jobs lost in Napa

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PHOTO BY MICHELLE WING

Trustee candidates Susan Hoffman, Indira Lopez and Jeff Maxfield vie for the two open seats on the school board.

School board candidates focus on student achievement gap

By Michelle Wing
Tribune Staff Writer

Although they answered more than a dozen questions during their 90 minutes in front of the crowd, the three school board candidates kept coming back to remarkably similar responses: something needs to be done about the achievement gap in Calistoga

schools.

On Tuesday night, incumbent Susan Hoffman and newcomers Indira Lopez and Jeff Maxfield addressed a roomful of about 75 people. The questions came fast and furious, but themes rapidly emerged.

Maxfield stressed his involve-

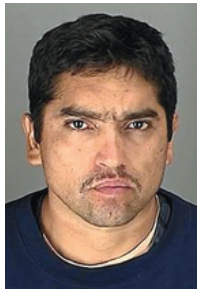
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Sheriffs seek info on assault, burglar suspect

By Michelle Wing
Tribune Staff Writer

Napa County Sheriffs are seeking information on a man who was arrested on Sept. 20, after he entered a woman's home near Calistoga at 2

a.m. and climbed into her bed. The suspect, Rodrigo Vega Mata, has been identified as the



Rodrigo Mata

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New city manager, RSO, water rates on Tues. agenda

By Pat Hampton
Tribune Publisher

Calistoga may have decided on a new city manager by next week with the evidence of a flurry of closed session meetings.

Final interviews with the three top candidates, two men and a woman, were completed last Thursday by the interview committee that included local citizens and city clerk Su Sneddon.

Two closed session meetings for the city council, whose five members will make the final selection and employment offer, are scheduled at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. before Tuesday's regular city council meeting at 7 p.m.

The council will also discuss

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Weather hurt attendance at swimming pool

By Michelle Wing
Tribune Staff Writer

Calistoga's hot days came too late to do the community pool much good.

Aquatics and recreation manager Olivia Lemen said although she's still analyzing all the numbers, attendance was definitely down this year, and the weather did have an impact.

"If it's gloomy outside, people make other plans for the after-

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Contract amendments with police, fire offer city some savings

By Pat Hampton
Tribune Publisher

New contract amendments with fire and police unions are saving the city \$131,589 – in the short term.

A memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Calistoga Police Officers Association, adopted by the city council on its consent calendar on Sept. 21, will

save the city \$98,539. Police chief Jonathon Mills assigned a police officer to the Napa Special Investigations Bureau for a salary savings of \$60,000. The chief will cover the officer's shifts, including patrol, while he is with the NSIB, said interim city manager Bill Norton. The grant for the NSIB position will expire next spring, when negotiations for a new contract with the CPOA will

begin, he said. The chief has also secured a \$2,000 grant from the district attorney's office to fund the juvenile diversion program.

CPOA members have agreed to freeze all step increases this fiscal year for a \$13,700 savings. Fourteen members of CPOA will give up pay for three holidays for another \$20,739 in savings. The MOU allows for review of the terms after Jan. 4, 2011.

For the Calistoga Professional Firefighters Association, a savings of \$33,000 was reached in a similar MOU adopted on Sept. 21.

Firefighters now work a more traditional 24-hour shift schedule, Norton said. The change has eliminated scheduled overtime and after-hour callbacks that has saved

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