04/25/02 **B002
MRS C K CONNOLLY
PO BOX 291
CALISTOGA CA 94515-0291

Sudden Oak Death

Identifying key symptoms — see Page 11

Volley 'Cats sweep Eagles

Calistoga romps to win — see Page 6

The Weekly Calistogan

"Published at the Head of the Napa Valley, a Beautiful and Fertile Section of Country, Possessing a Climate that for Health and Comfort is Not Surpassed on Earth"

VOLUME CXXIII - NUMBER 44 | CALISTOGA'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER FOR OVER 120 YEARS | THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2000 - 50 CENTS

Preschool could be open by spring

by Ramona Evans

If all goes well, a proposed preschool with a capacity for 48 children could be up and running by spring, according to Rick Tooker, city planner.

Barbara Nemko, superintendent of the Napa County Office of Education, recently presented the plans for a preschool to be located on the Pacific right-of-way between Eddy and Earl streets to the planning commission.

Nemko said that she is delighted with the cooperation she has gotten from the city. "From the city council, the design review board, to the planning commission, they have all been helpful," she said. Nemko believes that establishing this preschool is very important because it provides a foundation that children need when they attend elementary school.

The county office plans to bring in a modular building on the temporary site with enclosures for play areas on two city streets.

A five-year lease is being drawn up with a five-year option. The proposal will now go to the city council.

The design review board had expressed its concern that modular buildings are not typically desirable in Calistoga, and asked that the building be enhanced by adding a pitched roof with overhang and additional trees along the east property line.

The preschool ideally needs a permanent location, according to Rick Tooker, city planner, and should be included in the General Plan

see Preschool on Page 3

Lion's Club holds annual Halloween festivities

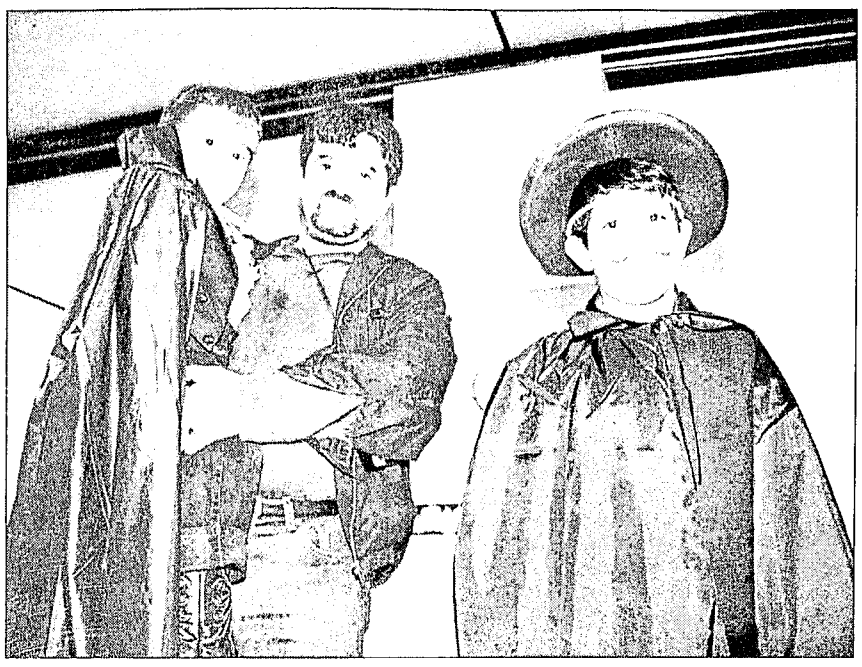

photo by Ramona Evans

The annual Lion's Club Halloween celebration brought out hundreds of revelers. For the full story and a list of winners see Page 3.

Planners hold firm to city codes as they address local issues

■Four major issues to be dealt with at Nov. 15 meeting

by Ramona Evans

A Nov. 15 planning commission meeting may prove pivotal in several cases in which city officials say that efforts are being made to enforce compliance to city codes.

Masonic building reconstruction plans move forward

The commission has authorized Paula Camacho, owner of the Masonic building that was gutted by fire, to restore the building to its original 1905 condition. They approved wood siding instead of plaster, trim details, windows and rooflines as depicted by her architect, Bev More.

The General Plan Citizens Advisory Committee will examine whether she should remove the canopy over the sidewalk. City planner Rick Tooker said that the cover reflects a development plan that occurred in the 1970s. The commission feels that the canopy should not be removed.

The commission recognizes Camacho's uses prior to the fire and has protected them. Tooker said Camacho's planning consultant, Ed Haworth, indicated that they were supportive of the planning commission's decisions.

Cottage Grove Inn faces sanctions

At the Nov. 15 meeting, the commission will adopt findings regarding the Cottage Grove Inn's three years of overuse of water. A revocation of a conditional use permit is under consideration.

The owner, Bob Beck, has made efforts to reduce water consumption, according to Tooker. The inn, which now processes all laundry offsite, offers its guests the option of keeping their linens for more than one night, and they have installed low-flow showers and toilets.

All of these mitigation efforts occurred before January 2000, Tooker said. Since last

see Meeting on Page 3

OB/GYN targeted HMO loses CEO

by John Speck

Robert O'Leary resigned as chief executive officer of PacificCare Health Maintenance Organization on Oct. 25 while local women planned further protests sparked, in part, by alleged lack of payments to Napa County Obstetricians and Gynecologists from PacificCare.

The Daily Briefing, a news service of The Advisory Board Company's association of health systems and medical centers, reported O'Leary's resignation in its Oct. 26 issue. O'Leary left the Santa Ana, Calif.-based insurance company, according to the briefing, just weeks after PacificCare announced possible third-quarter losses. The news service quoted O'Leary as saying his "skills and background are not a good fit to address the company's immediate priorities."

The Briefing reported that "O'Leary had an extensive background in physician and hospital management, but analysts say PacifiCare needs a CEO with a strong grasp on finance and insurance."

Locally, PacifiCare's grasp on finance and insurance came into sharp question last month as it was listed as one of the HMOs that had failed to provide adequate and timely payments to Napa County OB/GYN doctors.

In an Oct. 12 letter to the Weekly Calistogan, Brigid Mulligan, CEO of Napa Valley

see Physicians on Page 9

City officials step up code enforcement

■Disregarded measures come to the forefront

by Ramona Evans

Code compliance has become a priority for the city of Calistoga, according to Rick Tooker, planning and building director.

While the city adopted the Code Enforcement Procedures Manual in 1992, the procedures have not been fully implemented, and in recent years generally disregarded, City Manager Jim McCann indicated in a staff report to the city council on Sept. 19.

McCann said he has also received feedback from the community. Concerns are centered around conditions that detract from the beauty of Calistoga and situations where owners may not be in compliance with ordinances. Some citizens feel that codes are not being enforced fairly. "We want to be consistent with our enforcement," he said.

Tooker attributes the lack of enforcement in the past to a lack of stability in staffing, and "perhaps a lack of political desire."

Now with greater stability in staffing and support from the city council, Tooker said his department is dealing with 40 different cases of code violations. Most of these deal with health and safety issues and signage violations.

Code compliance is about education, Tooker said. The Code Enforcement Procedures Manual calls for problem solving in a friendly manner rather than an aggressive, punitive approach.

Tooker said he had spent 10 hours working with a local restaurant that was in violation of two codes. Five letters were sent and hours of conversations ensued before the business finally complied. No citation was issued.

The code enforcement manual outlines three methods of pursuing abatement efforts when the initial requests for code compliance fail, including abatement through court proceedings, civil court action or issuance of a citation.

McCann believes the citation procedure is the most effective and time efficient

see Enforcement on Page 3

Sierra Club not backing Malan's attack on ag plans

by John Speck

On Oct. 26 in Sacramento, Napa Sierra Club executive committee member Chris Malan signed and issued, on Napa County Sierra Club letterhead, a stinging four page indictment of plans by grape growers and the state to combat the glassy-winged sharpshooter.

On the same day, Napa County Sierra Club vice chair Tyler York disclaimed Malan's statement in a brief e-mail to the local grape industry and the state,

Sierra Club and grape industry representatives all agreed that the incident should not harm newly-formed cooperative efforts on Napa County agricultural and watershed issues.

Malan addressed her letter to a State Department of Food and Agriculture meeting held to review emergency regulations on the glassy-winged sharpshooter, a pest that spreads Pierce's disease into vineyards.

Malan's letter listed seven "emergency regulation failings" and contained another two pages of comments critical of the proposed regulation text. Her letter was peppered with other comments about grape growers and winemakers.

"The Napa Sierra Club appreciates the opportunity to bring comments before this governing body regarding the perceived threat by special interest winemakers and winegrape growers that the demise of winemaking is approaching given the rise of Pierce's disease that can be spread by a leaf-hopping insect called the glassy-winged sharpshooter," wrote Malan.

She wrote that the emergency regulations "have been initiated by frightened, scared and over re-acting special interests."

see Sharpshooter on Page 9

CALISTOGA COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Calistoga Firefighters Association holds 62nd annual card party

The Calistoga Firefighters Association 62nd annual Card Party and Bingo Night will take place Saturday, Nov. 18. Doors open at 5 p.m. Games begin at 6 p.m. at the Tubbs building at the Napa County Fairgrounds, 1435 Oak St., Calistoga.

Napa Valley Hospice grief support group

Hospice of Napa Valley offers a weekly, ongoing grief support group for adults. The group sessions are held Tuesdays at 10 a.m. at the Calistoga Springs Mobile Home Park. The support group is free and open to the public. To register, call 258-9080 or (800) 451-4664.

Christmas bazaar

Highlands Christian Fellowship will hold an Early Bird Christmas Bazaar, Friday and Saturday, Nov. 3-4, at 1407 Washington Ave. Decorations, gifts, walnuts, jam and baked goods will be sold from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday, and 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday. Proceeds will benefit the church building fund.

Free flu shots available at Community Center

The Napa County Health and Human Services Agency is offering free flu shots from noon to 2 p.m. Nov. 14 at the Calistoga Community Center. The pneumococcal vaccine and tetanus-diphtheria vaccine will also be offered, while supplies last, to qualified adults.

CALISTOGA WEATHER

10/25	58	41	0.0"
10/26	57	51	0.44"
10/27	67	43	0.0"
10/28	57	54	0.0"
10/29	60	56	0.0"
10/30	61	43	1.55"
10/31	71	37	0.0"

Total Rain to Date: 03.74"

(New Rain Season Began July 1)

Total Rain 1999-2000	39.27"
Total Rain 1998-1999	39.20"
Total Rain 1997-1998	60.10"
Total Rain 1996-1997	46.54"
Total Rain 1995-1996	69.04"
Total Rain 1994-1995	25.03"
Seasonal Average	36.00"

Source: Calistoga Public Works Dept.

Extended Forecast:

Today | Friday | Saturday