



- ▼ **\$500,000 FIRE LOSS**  
*No word yet on cause of Sunday night Maggie Avenue house fire*  
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## Shelter-at-home order effective today

*Another hit for businesses still recovering from fire slowdown*

**By Pat Hampton**  
Tribune Publisher

There was an eerie quiet in downtown Calistoga on Tuesday, with many retail shops still open for business but owners anxious about what changes to expect by the end of the week given the rapidly changing evolution of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Merchants were reporting a big drop in sales and foot traffic, and waffling between keeping their doors open or closing up shop.

That morning, Napa County was still exempt from the seemingly drastic “shelter-in-place” orders issued Monday by six Bay Area counties directing millions of residents to mostly sequester at home through April 7.

Local store owners were nervous about what directives might come from Napa County officials and when the proverbial shoe would be dropped here.

“If I were home in Lake County, I could help deliver food to shut-ins,” said Studio On Main owner Cindy Ivester. “We’re up in the air.”

Brad Suhr, owner of Calistoga Bikeshop, said he was making his business decisions day-by-day, trying to take care of his staff, and “hopefully, helping people get outside to hike and bike.”

Calistoga has about 85 retail



PHOTO BY CLARK JAMES MISHLER

businesses, with food and beverage, shopping, and spas and wellness dominating the mix, according to the Chamber of Commerce website.

Lincoln Avenue stylist Richard Hayman was giving David Pauls a haircut, the two friends bantering about the pandemic rumors that were being fostered by some conservative talk shows.

“I’ll be open until people don’t want to come in,” Hayman said. “It’s going to get dicey, though.”

### Restaurants

Most restaurants were open, although many reported a diminished number of diners. At Calistoga Inn & Brewery, workers were

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## Citizens to remain at home for all but essential activities

**By Kim Beltran**  
Tribune Editor

A shelter-at-home order issued Wednesday by Napa County officials to combat the spread of the latest corona virus officially took effect this morning at 12:01 a.m.

In taking this step, Napa becomes the last of the nine Bay Area counties to implement one of the most significant disruptions to daily life in modern history.

The order requires the majority of residents to stay home except when performing “essential activities,” defined largely as shopping for food and necessities, caring for a pet or family member in another home, or outdoor exercise such as walking, hiking or riding a bike.

Businesses defined as “essential” may continue to operate. These include grocery stores, farmers markets, gas stations, banks, hardware stores, auto repair shops, plumbing and electrical shops, taxis and restaurants – but only for take-out and delivery; no in-house dining.

In announcing the shelter-at-home order during a press conference Wednesday afternoon, the

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*Diana Clark, above, places a bag of groceries into the back of Dave Newton’s SUV on Tuesday in the pick-up zone behind Cal Mart, which was having trouble keeping some of its products in stock – like the paper products aisle, left. “My wife made the order and I’m here to pick it up. I’m afraid this may be our new way of life,” said Newton.*

## Kids, families ‘bonding’ at home; seniors on city radar

**By Kim Beltran**  
Tribune Editor

With the cancellation of classes in the Calistoga Joint Unified School District this week, as well as the shutdown of athletic competitions and recreation programs, keeping young minds occupied for hours on end was a challenge that was being met with online learning, virtual tours and, until Wednesday, the Calistoga Library.

On Tuesday, associate Jackie Flores said the library’s stash of coloring books, board games and puzzles had all been checked out. One of two tele-

scopes, a microscope and ukulele had been taken home as well.

“Kids have been coming in spurts to do their homework,” Flores said, “and they’re staying apart.”

A piece of blue masking tape on the library floor indicated where patrons should stand when talking with staff behind the desk to fulfill the suggested “social distancing” length of six feet.

At the double bank of desktop computers, six of the 10 machines sported signs noting their temporary shut-down to

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## \$500,000 in fire damage to Maggie home

**By Kim Beltran**  
Tribune Editor

A Sunday night fire at a home on Maggie Avenue caused \$500,000 in damages, Calistoga Fire Chief Steve Campbell reported.

Occupants of the single-family residence were home at the time of the fire but were able to escape unharmed, said Campbell.

Multiple calls reporting the fire came in at 9:27 p.m., the chief said, adding that units from Calistoga, St. Helena, Napa County Fire and American Medical Response all responded to the scene.

Upon arrival, crews found the garage engulfed in flames and fire spreading into the kitchen, said Campbell. Firefighters were able to contain the blaze in about 20 minutes.

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PHOTO BY CLARK JAMES MISHLER

*The charred remains of the garage of a home on Maggie Avenue bears witness to the size of the Sunday night blaze that was contained by firefighters just as it was spreading to the interior of the structure. The home’s occupants were able to safely escape the fire, which did about a half-million dollars in damages, according to fire officials.*