

Calistoga Tribune

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PHOTO BY GRANVILLE FOX

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Fire temporarily displaces businesses

Riverlea Square blaze contained to second floor but inspection of electrical system is still pending

By **Kim Beltran**
Tribune Editor

A catering company, chocolate manufacturer, hair salon and barbershop in Riverlea Square remained closed as of Wednesday after a Friday night fire damaged part of the two-story building housing the businesses.

Owners of Heritage Catering, Flourish Chocolates, Salon 360 and the UpValley Barbershop were awaiting word from a city building inspector that it was safe to turn the electricity on before they could resume business, according to the Calistoga Fire Department.

The building was occupied when the blaze was reported at 9:20 p.m. Friday night but everyone was able to get out safely and no injuries were reported, firefighters said.

Part of the second floor, which is used as an office and storage area for the catering company, was engulfed in flames, which could be seen shooting out of the roof when first responders arrived on scene.

Because Calistoga Fire happened to have four firefighters on duty rather than the normal three they were able to enter the building quickly and mount an aggressive interior attack to contain the fire to a fairly small area by 10 p.m., a crew member said. Cal Osha rules require that if two firefighters enter a building, at least two must remain outside.

Two engines from the Big Tree Calfire station

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PHOTO BY LUIS PANIAGUA

Flames can be seen burning through the roof of a two-story commercial building in Riverlea Square at the intersection of Foothill and Mitzi.

SOLAR 2017 ECLIPSE

Some Calistogans will be completely in the dark Aug. 21

By **Elise Guillot**
Tribune Contributor

People across the country and the world have been making plans — many for a year or more — to celebrate a rare celestial occurrence: the Aug. 21 solar eclipse that will darken the day with a swath of shadow across the U.S. from Salem, Oregon to Charleston, South Carolina.

Never ones to miss a big event, many Calistogans are joining in, some throwing parties in their own back yards and others journeying to prime viewing spots in what is known as the “path of totality,” such as New Meadows, Idaho and Carbondale, Illinois.

“A group of us went to Cabo San Lucas to see the July 11, 1991, eclipse,” said Calistoga tax preparer Jim Flamson, who along with his

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Schramsberg jump-starts harvest with first pick of Carneros pinot

By **Pat Hampton**
Tribune Publisher

A warm summer morning heralded the 2017 harvest at Calistoga’s Schramsberg Vineyards Tuesday when owner Hugh Davies and his winemaking team toasted the first grapes of the season on the winery’s crush pad.

Davies, son of founders Jack and Jamie Davies, was celebrating his 17th harvest as head winemaker, a position he earned in 2000.

After sabering corks off bottles of 2013 Querencia Brut Rosé, Davies, along with winery staff, a smattering of supporters and media, raised a glass to this year’s harvest. Speaking in both English and Spanish, Davies said great weather, dedicated workers, good growers, little fruit damage and perfect brix should produce a memorable vintage.

This year’s harvest was five days later than 2016’s Aug. 3 start date and much later than 2015’s July 29 first pick, but historically the hillside winery begins in early- to mid-August.

After toasting to this year’s



PHOTOS BY CLARK JAMES MISHLER

Schramsberg Vineyards CEO Hugh Davies toasts the start of the winery’s harvest Tuesday morning at the Calistoga sparkling wine facility. He cited good weather, little fruit damage and the dedication of co-workers in the fields and at the winery as the harbingers of a successful harvest and vintage.

harvest, Davies poured some of his sparkling wine on the first load of deep purple grapes from the Richburg Vineyard in Napa’s Carneros region that will go into the winery’s 2017 vintage.

Events coordinator Andrea West served glasses filled with

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Schramsberg employees toast the start of the 2017 vintage.

Local American Legion post, numbers shrinking, continues legacy of service

By **Kim Beltran**
Tribune Editor

They raise about \$8,500 a year selling poppies and hosting an annual barbecue in Pioneer Park but the veterans of Calistoga American Legion Post 231 use that money to help others in need: Preschoolers, graduating high schoolers, Little Leaguers, other veterans and widows of fallen servicemen.

With a membership of just over 20 military veterans and less than half active in the club due to age, most of the work falls on the “youngsters,” longtime members Jim Barnes and Paul Coates, both of whom served during the Vietnam War.

Many of Post 231’s remaining members are older, having served during earlier conflicts such as World War II and the Korean War. As they pass on, post membership dwindles because, for whatever reasons, there are no younger veterans taking their place.

If membership drops much lower, said Barnes, the post could eventually be disbanded. For now, though, a small number of active veterans, with help from family and friends, continue dedicating their time in service of others.

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Veterans Jim Barnes, top, and Paul Coates, above, are two of the youngest members of Post 231 and, as such, handle most of the club’s business, with the help of friends and family.