



Books, movies, magazines, tech gadgets, parties with prizes – free at the library

By Anne Ward Ernst
For the Tribune

The Dewey Decimal System dates back to 1876, and the concept of a library – a place that collects and shares knowledge – is even older, millennia older. According to Britannica, the first library systematically organized was established in the Middle East in the 7th century BCE. Libraries have come a long way since then, baby.

The Calistoga Library, located in a wood frame building that was built in 1924 – with a renovation in 2016 – has a plethora of free offerings. Free, is the standout word.

“My family and friends hear it all the time,” that everything at the library is “free,” said Jacqueline Flores, library associate. “When I hear someone say they bought a book, I say, ‘Why would you buy it when you can get it free at the library?’”

In late July, Flores and her colleague, Juan Cabrera Salinas, were handing out prizes after a Reader Celebration party attended by about a dozen preschool children and their parents, who were treated to an interactive musical performance by trombonist Andy Strain. They each received a lime-green bag, crayons and a book as a gift for attending.

The reader program, open to children, teens and adults, was filled with the opportunity to win raffle prizes for participating in the Summer Library Adventure. Prizes for younger children included a plush animal, tickets to the Oakland Zoo, admission to an arcade, and other fun things.

About 70 children participated in the reading program, Cabrera Salinas said.

Among the prizes teenagers had a chance to win included a Bluetooth record player, Nintendo Switch Lite game player, food kits to make

See **LIBRARY** on page 6

City sets policy for opening cooling centers for residents

By Kim Beltran
Tribune Editor

In the event of a major heatwave or a heatwave coupled with a power outage longer than four hours, the Calistoga Community Center will be opened as a cooling center for local residents.

The City Council Tuesday night approved a set of guidelines for opening and running a cooling center, as well as charging stations during power outages with no heat event.

“These protocols are intended to be guidelines that should be

followed but the uniqueness of any given situation would determine how the guidelines would be applied,” Recreation Department director Rachel Melick told council members. Also, the city manager and/or their designee can update how, when and where the cooling center and charging stations would operate given the situation, she said.

The city’s cooling center and charging stations, when open, would be in addition to any cooling/charging stations PG&E may activate, mayor Chris Can-

See **COOLING** on page 3

Vine Trail work underway in Calistoga now

By Pat Hampton
Tribune Publisher

Construction of the Napa Valley Vine Trail between St. Helena and Calistoga has taken a u-turn and is being built starting in Calistoga instead, founder and board president Chuck McMinn told the Tribune last week.

Originally scheduled to begin at Pratt Avenue in St. Helena and run north parallel to Highway 29 to Dunaweal Lane, McMinn said the change came because PG&E hadn’t finished its work along the highway. Construction of the nine-mile segment began a few weeks ago at what is known as the Fair Way Path extension that runs from the Calistoga Depot south behind Calistoga Self Storage and the Little League baseball field, where it will join the city’s Washington Street bike path and then on to Dunaweal Lane.

“It was an easy place to get started,” said McMinn. Workers are currently doing prep work, he said, moving gravel and road components where they need to be and getting bridge materials in place this week.

McMinn said the Calistoga segment of the Class 1 Multiuse Bike Path could be finished in the next few months. The nine-mile segment from Dunaweal Lane to Pratt Avenue in St. Helena is targeted to be completed

See **TRAIL** page 3

Community enjoys National Night Out



Calistoga residents young and old enjoyed meeting firefighters, police officers, city staff and local officials at National Night Out Tuesday at Loggy Park. The nationwide event is an annual gathering that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live. Children enjoyed jumpy houses, receiving and wearing fire helmets and meeting adoptable animals, as well as a free meal.



PHOTOS BY CLARK JAMES MISHLER

License plate cameras, speed cushions get City Council’s approval

By Kim Beltran
Tribune Editor

The Calistoga Police Department is getting a crime-fighting boost with the addition of six license plate-reading cameras at the entry/exit points of the city.

The City Council signed off on Police Chief Mitch Celaya’s request to enter a two-year lease agreement with Flock Safety for the installation and maintenance of six stationary Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) cameras at a cost of \$39,100 in total.

The council also agreed to a plan to slow traffic on Grant Street that involves the installation of three speed cushions and a traffic study to determine whether they work or not.

Installation of the ALPR cameras was not unanimously supported, however. The council vote was 4-1, with Lisa Gift dissenting over concerns about privacy and not enough public input prior to the decision.

But Celaya and a representative from Flock Safety explained that there are both internal and external controls designed to ensure that the information is used ethically and not disseminated without cause.

The cameras, which have no facial recognition technology, work by capturing footage of vehicles entering or exiting the city. Police can only use the system during the investigation of a

See **CAMERAS** page 7