



Calistoga to Antarctica: Williamson visits the South Pole

By Linda Williamson
Tribune Columnist

Why would anyone fly 15 hours to visit a land with no cities, people, trees, or decent weather? Why would anyone love a frigid landscape of gray and white with only the occasional color?

It's exactly because of these qualities that I went to Antarctica. Never have I felt so small and insignificant. Never have I loved a landscape more.

Antarctica is larger than Europe, but what I saw was miles and miles of ice and ocean. Stunning ice and ocean. If it were a country, it would be larger than all countries except Russia.

A trip to Antarctica starts at the tip of South America in Ushuaia, a

See ANTARCTICA on page 5

'Tis the season



PHOTO BY CLARK JAMES MISHLER

A couple looks in the window of Blackbird in downtown Calistoga earlier this week. There is no shortage nor lack of variety of gift items at the city's many retail shops this holiday season.

Still have shopping to do? Calistoga has you covered

For inspiration and a wealth of holiday gift ideas, look no further than inside today's Tribune, where you'll find our annual Holiday Gift Guide highlighting the many fine retail shops with their variety of unique and often one-of-a-kind items. From party dresses to funky socks; cutting-edge kitchen accessories to top-flight wines, and whimsical garden decor to vintage treasures, there's sure to be something fun and meaningful for everyone on your shopping list. Check it out, and tell them the Tribune sent you!



Colorful kitchen accessories, above, soft, fuzzy slippers, left, and a one-of-a-kind, hand-beaded camper purse are among the unique gifts available.

Council weighs relinquishing mobile home inspection responsibility

■ Parks & Recreation needs assessment, EIR for Kortum Ranch, foodware code changes, and Fairgrounds tax district also on Tuesday's city agenda

By Kim Beltran
Tribune Editor

Since 1991, city of Calistoga staff has been responsible for conducting dozens and dozens of annual, state-required health and safety inspections at its four mobilehome parks.

On Tuesday, the City Council is being asked by staff to formally relinquish that responsibility and turn it over to the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD).

"This is one workload we are falling short delivering on," Jeff Mitchem, Calistoga's director of Planning & Building told the Tribune Wednesday. "The state's [HCD] better equipped to handle this workload and their turnaround time is much faster than ours."

Under the state's Health and Safety codes, multiple individual units in mobilehome parks are required to be inspected each year. Inspectors check things like electrical and mechanical systems, plumbing infrastructure and water

See COUNCIL page 6

How can California boost its water supply?

By Rachel Becker
Calmmatters.org news service

Over and over again, drought launches California into a familiar scramble to provide enough water.

Cities and towns call for conservation and brace for shortages. Growers fallow fields and ranchers sell cows. And thousands of people discover that they can't squeeze another drop from their wells.

So where can California get enough water to survive the latest dry stretch — and the next one, and the next?

Can it pump more water from the salty Pacific Ocean? Treat waste flushed down toilets and washed down drains? Capture runoff that flows off streets into storm drains? Tow Antarctic icebergs to Los Angeles?

The Newsom administration unveiled a roadmap for bolstering the state water supply. But the plan — which has few details, distant deadlines and scant plans for agriculture — has been met with criticism.

Every time another drought rolls around, an array of suggestions rise to the surface. Here, CalMatters takes a look at the strategies that

could work — along with the more outlandish ones — and the obstacles they face.

Recycle more water

Turning sewage into water is the Golden State equivalent of turning water into wine, and California has been doing it for decades.

Californians used about 732,000 acre feet of recycled water in 2021. That's almost two-thirds of the water that the state's major aqueduct funneled south in dry 2021 — equivalent to the amount used by roughly 2.6 million households.

None of it flows directly from "toilet to tap." But the State Water Resources Control Board is developing regulations for direct potable reuse of highly treated wastewater.

For now, much of California's recycled water is used for non-drinking purposes, like irrigating landscapes, golf courses and crops. It also refills underground stores that provide drinking water. Southern California has been replenishing local groundwater supplies with recycled wastewater since the 1960s.

Newsom called for ramping up recycled water use by 2030 by roughly 9% from the amount used in 2021, rising to 1.8 million acre

Can California recycle 1.8 million acre-feet of water by 2040?

Gov. Gavin Newsom set a goal of 1.8 million acre-feet of water recycled in California by 2040. That is more than double the amount recycled in 2021.

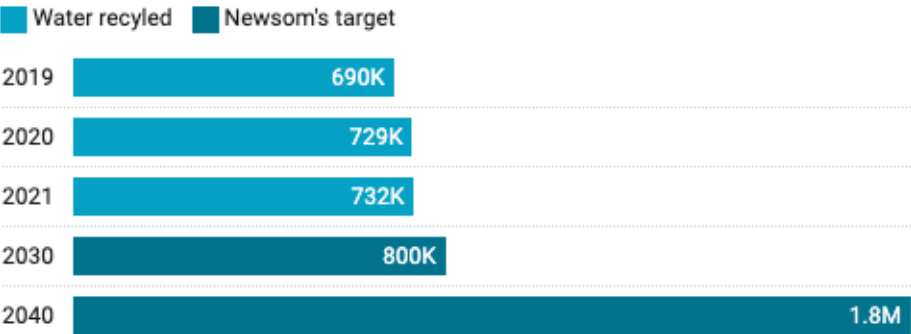


Chart: John Osborn D'Agostino, CalMatters • Source: California State Water Resources Control Board • Created with Datawrapper

feet by 2040. Critics, however, voiced disappointment with the target's lack of ambition which falls short of previous state goals.

In the meantime, water suppliers are spending big to build out water recycling facilities in

Northern and Southern California.

But there's a catch: As Californians replace their water-guzzling household appliances

See WATER page 3