

# Calistoga Tribune

Independently owned and published in Calistoga for Calistogans since 2002

50¢

Friday, February 7, 2014

▼ **WATER EMERGENCY**  
Drought brings about  
Stage 2 water emergency

BELOW

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Crowd gathers at Pioneer  
Park to support new gazebo plans

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◀ **'CATS DIVE IN**  
CHS swim team has  
their first conditioning

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## Council OKs Stage 2 water restrictions

■ Limited outdoor water use, 20% reduction overall

By Pat Hampton

Tribune Publisher

Calistoga city council members voted to declare a Stage II water emergency that mandates a 20 percent reduction of water use, restricts outdoor irrigation to set days, and asks restaurants to serve tap water to dining patrons on request only.

Four months ago the council passed a resolution declaring a Stage 1 water emergency that asked for voluntary cutbacks with a goal of 10 percent in reduced water consumption. Instead, water usage climbed 20 percent higher than last year for October, November and December.

Public works director Mike Kirn said it was not one user group that accounted for the increase, that all three customer types – residential, commercial and multi-family – used more water. Kirn said he suspected the recent warm weather brought more people to town than usual and the increase in tourists, partnered with residents watering their outdoor landscaping due to a lack of rain, accounted for the hike in water consumption.

St. Helena declared a Stage II Water Emergency at its Jan. 28 meeting, the first town in the valley to do so, asking their non-residential customers to reduce water use by 10 percent and allots 65 gallons per person per day to residential water users.

Yountville, American Canyon and Napa have passed voluntary reduction resolutions asking for 10-20 percent water savings by all customers.

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PHOTO BY PAT HAMPTON COURTESY OF HEIDI BARRETT AND BLUEBELL

*The city's reservoir holds less than five acre-feet of water as of Jan. 31 (above) and has been off-line and producing no potable water since October. In a normal year, the reservoir holds 312 acre-feet and is the source of half the town's annual consumption of 750 acre-feet of water.*



*Google Earth photo from 2012 shows a full Kimball Dam reservoir.*

### Kimball Dam drying up from drought impacts

The City of Calistoga owns and operates a water reservoir and a conventional surface water treatment facility four miles northwest of the city. This water resource produces approximately one half of the total annual water demand for the community. Kimball Canyon Dam was constructed in 1939 by the City and was subsequently raised in 1948 to increase the storage capacity of the reservoir. The dam is an earthfill structure approximately 300 feet long, 200 feet wide at the base, and about 75 feet high. The spillway crest elevation is 575 feet above mean sea level.

The original storage capacity of the reservoir measured in a 1954 survey; at the spillway crest was approximately 345 acre-feet and 409 acre feet at the top of the flashboards. The accumulation of sediment in the reservoir has since reduced the storage capacity to 312 acre-feet at the flashboard elevation according to a 1991 reservoir sounding study. Much of the sediment accumulation has been attributed to wet weather runoff that followed a 1985 fire which burned a large portion of the surrounding watershed. — City of Calistoga website

■ Critics chastise council over past water allocations

By Pat Hampton

Tribune Publisher

While the city may have enough water to get through 2014, what happens in 2015 and beyond asked several residents who addressed the city council Tuesday night.

During oral comments when the water emergency public hearing was being held, a half dozen speakers questioned past water practices and decisions.

Past planning commissioner Kristen Casey pointed out that 300 new rooms would soon be coming online from voter approved resort developments.

"It just kind of worries me about whether the water is here for residents, or future developments," Casey said. She said the general plan prohibits further development until there was enough water to accommodate it. "I wish that were happening."

Mayor Chris Canning answered that new development won't start until June when Silver Rose begins construction, and the earliest demand for water will be 22 months from June assuming they finish on time.

The Silver Rose project consists of 80 new guest rooms and 24 single family units as well as a winery, restaurant and spa.

As for Enchanted Resorts, Canning pointed out that they have not pulled a building permit and when the developers did start construction, it wouldn't be completed for an estimated two years.

"I'm not recommending shutting the city down," Casey responded. "I don't think anybody who is saying we're concerned about all the new development

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## New CHS multipurpose building almost ready, furniture on order

■ Students helping to select new furniture

By Claudia Aceves

Tribune Cub Reporter

The multipurpose building at the Calistoga High School is approximately 98 percent complete to date, and it should be ready to occupy by the end of the month, trustees learned Monday night.

The facility, which is part of the Measure A phase I project,

will encompass a multipurpose room, food court, practice room, music room, kitchen, dry storage, office, and janitor storage.

The flooring has been completed, audio visual system installation is underway and kitchen equipment has been delivered and set up. A staff training on the new equipment will be held in mid-February. The exterior site work is nearly 99 percent complete and the building will have a total of 4,944 square feet.

According to the director of facilities Dan Banowetz, four stu-

dents from the student council were selected to shop for furniture that is to be placed the multipurpose room. Students have taken into consideration durability and versatility along with style and color.

"I'm waiting to get their final approval so I can get it ordered next week," Banowetz said.

However, because of the frigid climate on the East coast, much of the remaining equipment for the new room has yet to be shipped

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## State appeals court rules against Reynolds

■ Judge says San Diego man has 'no standing'

By Pat Hampton

Tribune Publisher

A state judge has ruled against Grant Reynolds in a decision issued Monday that found that the San Diego man had no standing in bringing a lawsuit against the City of Calistoga because he was not a taxpayer or resident of the city or the county.

Reynolds, a San Diego resident, had filed suit against the City of Calistoga in 2010 claiming as a taxpayer he could bring a lawsuit against the city for alleged misappropriation of funds when the city used Measure A funds to construct the Mt.

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