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Weather forecast: Rain, rain and rain

Rainfall total nearly double what it was just one year ago

By Kim Beltran
Tribune Editor

The winter storm that battered the North Coast this week dumped 3.2 inches of rainfall in Calistoga and brought snow to some of the lower elevations, including Mt. St. Helena.

With the exception of a massive tree falling across Highway 29 near the entrance to town Tuesday night, Calistoga appears to have weathered the storm with few problems.

But many North Bay communities are bracing for the impact of a more potent storm, set to

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PHOTO BY KIM BELTRAN

What appears to be a severely flooded construction site is, in reality, an actual pond that will remain part of the landscape for a new luxury resort being built by Silver Rose Ventures on Silverado Trail across from the Solage Resort. The water will have to be drained prior to construction of the resort but the pond will then be refilled, according to city planner Erik Lundquist. Across town near where another luxury resort is being built on the side of Diamond Mountain, a massive oak tree fell across Highway 29, blocking both lanes of traffic. A Calistoga Fire crew responded to the scene and removed the tree from the roadway.

W.H. Smith gets license to continue

By Kim Beltran
Tribune Editor

The wine will continue to flow at the W.H. Smith Wines tasting room on Lincoln Avenue.

The business on Tuesday was ruled by the City Council to be “of public convenience or necessity,” a determination that will allow it to obtain the new Alcohol Beverage Control license it needs to stay in business.

The tasting room’s previous alcohol license was granted because the business was associated with an off-site winery. But the W.H. Smith Wines winery property in Angwin was sold in

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Change is constant on Calistoga’s main street

Hair Spa closes; Rove, Rena Mae and Veraison open

By Claudia Aceves
Tribune Reporter

Even in the relative quiet of winter, retail and business activity continues in Calistoga’s downtown corridor as businesses come, go and relocate.

One notable change in the past month is the closure of the Hair Spa at 1420 Lincoln Ave. Owner Penny Donmon said she had been contemplating the idea of retiring business ownership to

instead working at a salon so she could focus on more on her clients. When she heard about new salon Rena Mae opening, she saw her opportunity.

Donmon closed the Hair Spa in December and all but one of the stylists there transferred to work stations at Rena Mae, 1219 Washington St.

“It was a blessing because we needed the help and now we’re fully staffed and have enough people to accommodate our appointments,” said Rena Mae manager Shelbi Sereni, daughter of owner Katie Sereni.

Rena Mae services include hair, nails,

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Shelbi Sereni styles a client's hair in the new Rena Mae salon at 1219 Washington St. The new salon is owned by Shelbi's mother, Katie Sereni, and Shelbi will serve as manager. Penny Donmon closed her own shop, the Hair Spa, and now works at Rena Mae as well.

PHOTO BY CLAUDIA ACEVES



City Clerk Kathy Flamson, left, reads the oath of office to new police officer Lester “Dale” Hoskins III as Calistoga Police Chief Mitch Celaya, center, stands by. Above, Hoskins’ wife and 11-week old son, Xander, look on.



Newest Calistoga police officer grew up in neighboring Lake Co.

CPD now has six full-time officers

By Kim Beltran
Tribune Editor

The city’s newest police officer, Lester “Dale” Hoskins, III, took the oath of office and received his badge at Tuesday night’s City Council meeting.

Hoskins, a Lake County native who grew up in the Hidden Valley Lake community, said he always dreamed of becoming a police officer and hoped he’d one day work in

Calistoga.

After graduating from police academy, Hoskins went to work for the Lakeport Police Department but said “it wasn’t the right fit” for him so he applied to Calistoga and was hired.

Hoskins is the third new officer to be sworn in in the past five months, bringing to six the number of full-time officers in the department, not including Chief Mitch Celaya and sergeants Tim Martin and Matt Freese.

The department still reportedly has one more

officer position remaining to be filled.

In late September, Marin County native Ryan Jung was sworn in, one month after Laertis Moraitis officially joined the force.

A support crew of police academy friends as well as family members were on hand Tuesday night to witness Hoskins’ swearing in ceremony. His wife had the honor of pinning his badge on his uniform while his 11-week old son, Xander, stole some of his dad’s thunder by smiling cutely at members of the audience.