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Napa County records first influenza death of the year
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Calistogans are planning to join Women's March in Napa, SF
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- ▶ **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**
January chock full of things to do in Calistoga this month

Storm highlights issues with Berry Street bridge

By Kim Beltran
Tribune Editor

Two days prior to a public hearing over the temporary taking of private property to replace the Berry Street bridge, Caltrans engineers recommended that the city close the bridge to vehicle traffic until the waters of the Napa River, made swollen and powerful by a massive winter storm, slowed a bit.

Then, on Tuesday night, just 10 minutes prior to the meeting,

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Calistoga weathers storm fairly well

Schools close for three days; power out overnight

By Kim Beltran
Tribune Editor

Chain saws and leaf blowers were handy tools to have on hand this week for crews and residents cleaning up in the after-math of back-to-back winter storms that dumped 11.8 inches of rain in Calistoga between Saturday and Wednesday.

See **STORM** on page 6



River watchers young and old were drawn to a familiar spot on the Napa River in Calistoga Sunday afternoon to see the rushing, high water. The river rose to 11 feet on Sunday, just a half foot shy of flood stage. The record, set some time ago, is 15 feet at Lincoln Avenue bridge, according to city records.

PHOTO BY PAT HAMPTON

Gardening class to plant small orchard behind Palisades school

Organic fruit, nut trees to provide for CJSHS students

By Claudia Aceves
Tribune Reporter

A patch of corn and green beans here. A plot of kale and artichokes there. Peas. Tomatoes. Herbs.

Small mini gardens growing organic produce are scattered around the Calistoga Junior/Senior High School Lake Street campus, planted and tended by teacher Jeremy Grove and his Agriculture and Food Science students.

Now the class – and elective for junior high students – can add orchard to its food-growing resume. District officials have approved Grove's plan to have his class plant and cultivate a small orchard of fruit and nut trees on a narrow patch of ground between the outdoor basketball courts and the city tennis courts, behind Palisades Continuation High School.

"I wanted to promote good and healthy eating for the kids, and teach them why eating well is good for you," said Grove, who works with the district's director of food services and culinary teacher Ed Burke to incorporate the fruits of his students' labor into their daily menus.

Grove and Burke are working on a long-term plan aimed at re-establishing an agricultural program at the school, which he said was phased out decades ago.

Part of the delay comes from insufficient staffing to create and run such a program, Grove said, but he and Burke continue to discuss.

"We haven't found a success-



PHOTO BY CLAUDIA ACEVES

Calistoga Junior/Senior High School science teacher Jeremy Grove stands on a small plot of ground behind Palisades Continuation High School on Grant Street, between the school's outdoor basketball courts and the city tennis courts, where he and students from his agriculture/food science class will plant an organic orchard containing fruit and nut trees.

ful program for our district yet, but we do work together a lot," Grove said.

In the meantime, Grove and his food science students provide Burke with the fruits and vegetables they harvest from their gardens, much like a farm-to-table program but in this case it's more of a "garden-to-cafeteria" system, he said.

Burke then incorporates the campus-grown produce into school menus as well as in the curriculum for his culinary class, in which junior and senior high school students studying food service prepare and serve a variety of dishes.

See **ORCHARD** on page 12

Calistogans set to march in Napa, SF

By Pat Hampton
Tribune Publisher

On the day after Donald Trump is sworn in as the nation's 45th president, he will receive a visit, of sorts, from more than 200,000 thousand – mostly female – people with a message for his administration: Women and minorities matter, and their rights should be respected and protected.

Several Calistoga women will be joining the show of solidarity in San Francisco, one of nearly 300 "sister marches" coinciding with the main Wash-

ington, D.C. Women's March on Saturday, Jan. 21.

One group of 10 Calistogans, including City Council member Irais Ortega Lopez, met Wednesday night at Pacifico Restaurant for dinner to set their itineraries for an event that nearly 600,000 people will be participating in simultaneously worldwide.

Another group of local women will join a march being held in Napa.

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County records first flu death of the year

By Kim Beltran
Tribune Editor

A Napa County resident who died last week was the year's first victim of an influenza virus infection, Napa County Public Health said in a public notice.

The individual was an adult under the age of 65 years. Public Health is investigating the case but officials said they will not release additional details about the person in order to protect the family's right to privacy and maintain confidentiality.

"This unfortunate case demonstrates that flu can be deadly," Dr. Karen Relucio, Health Officer for Napa County, said in the statement. "Fortunately, people can protect themselves and their family members from getting the flu by getting

vaccinated."

Bay Area public health officials urge vaccination against influenza (flu) because flu activity has reached "widespread" levels in California. Areas with the most flu activity in the state include the Bay Area. In addition to this first death, Napa County is seeing a rapid increase in the percentage of patients seen in local emergency departments with influenza like illness.

The flu specimens that have been tested match very closely to the current vaccine strains, which means the vaccine provides good protection against the flu, officials said. The California Department of Public Health recommends the annual flu vaccine for everyone six months of age and older, including pregnant women.