

Calistoga Tribune

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PHOTO BY GENE DUFFY JR.

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Water use down 13.8% overall

■ Not enough to rescind Stage 1 or 2 water emergency rulings

By Amanda Rhodes
Tribune Staff Writer

Despite conserving Calistogans and heavy December rains, the city remains in a Stage II Water Emergency.

“Overall for 2014, we used 13.8 percent less water than 2013,” Public Works Director Mike Kirn said.

Comparing Dec. 2013 to Dec. 2014, Kirn said that residential water customers reduced consumption by 21.1 percent or 5,387

units; commercial usage was down by 16.4 percent or 1,110 units. All units are measured in hundred cubic feet: 748 gallons amounts to one hundred cubic feet.

Public facilities, such as the community pool, reduced water use by 99.9 percent. Kirn noted that this number is deceiving because it takes into account that water in the pool was changed in Dec. 2013.

“We were seeing some water quality aesthetic issues that neces-

sitated us to drain the pool and add some fresh water. The water met all pool standards but we wanted to make it better for the 2014 season,” Kirn said.

In Feb. 2014, city council declared a Stage II Water Emergency to help Calistogans achieve a 20 percent reduction in water use over last year.

“Although we have received a great amount of rainfall, we have

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Commission wrestles with ATM request

■ BofA wants to put ATM machine by ACE Hardware

By Pat Hampton
Tribune Publisher

City planning commissioners once again wrestled with a request to put an off-site ATM machine in the downtown area.

By consensus, commissioners told Bank of America representatives Wednesday that a free standing ATM proposed for a spot next

to Silverado ACE Hardware is not appropriate because it goes against the downtown character.

They did agree that an ATM for BofA customers is needed, but it should be incorporated with an existing structure or business. The machine can be installed in an exterior wall or placed as a free standing machine inside a business.

In August 2013, BofA asked for permission to put an ATM by the

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OLIVE KNOT DISEASE SPREADING AMONG ORCHARDS

Olive expert cautions bringing in infected trees

By Pat Hampton
Tribune Publisher

When harvest of the valley’s wine grapes begins to wind down, Sean McEntire’s days start to get longer as he tends to the 4,800 olive trees under his year-round care that are ready to be picked between September and November.

McEntire, owner of Napa Valley Olive Tree Management Company, is fighting an increase in olive knot, a disease caused by a bacterium, which infects wounds and causes galls to form on olive tree twigs and young branches. The bacteria enter the tree through leaf scars, but will also enter through wounds from pruning, harvesting, hail or frost.

McEntire was called to Calistoga recently to look over a small orchard on Lake County Highway that was infected with olive knot.

“My job is taking care of olive trees so they produce a vibrant



PHOTO BY PAT HAMPTON

Olive tree expert Sean McEntire checks an olive tree grove on Lake County Highway.

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City looks at bank, vacant land

■ Closed session reveals interest in land purchase

By Pat Hampton
Tribune Publisher

Council members considered property purchases in a closed session meeting on Tuesday but have not finalized any deals said city manager Richard Spitler.

Tuesday’s agenda had three items for discussion that included the closed Bank of America building and a vacant parcel on Washington Street, and rental space at the fairgrounds.

The BofA building, which is for sale, has no listed price, Spitler said in an email. “It is an open bid but they want 10 percent of the bid as earnest money that’s non-refundable.”

Spitler said by the end of the meeting there was no interest by the city council in participating in the bidding process for the bank. The 4,068-square feet building on Lincoln Avenue closed its doors on Dec. 5, leaving patrons with an ATM machine and no inside ser-

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\$650,000 in library renovations draws 40 into conversation

■ Commissioner presents plans for building

By Claudia Aceves
Tribune Cub Reporter

Nearly three years after discussion for a renovation to the Calistoga Library began, the first plans were presented to the public at last Wednesday night’s meeting held in the Calistoga Library.

Napa County Library Director Danis Kreimeier was joined by architect Steve Cuddy to introduce the first draft of the proposed renovation and collect input from the 40

people in attendance. The technical drawings could change based on public opinion.

“The big picture is to save all the important features that we can while doing the restoration,” Cuddy said.

The budget for the renovation is approximately \$650,000, although library and city representatives predict it will not be enough.

One of the first changes mentioned was the relocation of the front desk to face the entrance of the library so that the librarians could easily greet patrons.

The children’s section, currently located at the front right corner of the building would also be relocated closer to the

front desk toward the back so that the librarians could be closer to the kids in case they need help.

Additionally, the adult Spanish section would be on the opposite side of the children’s Spanish so that Spanish speakers can receive help together if necessary.

The adult section would be relocated to where the children’s section now resides and there will be chairs in front of the windows for adults to sit and read away from the children.

New adjustable shelves will be installed that will allow

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