



Council hears update from Climate Action Committee

■ Gift, Eisenberg named to represent city on county consortium; other committee assignments handed out by council as well

By Kim Beltran
Tribune Editor

With a new mayor and two new City Council members having been seated in just the past few weeks, the city’s representation on a variety of local and regional boards and committees was updated on Tuesday.

The series of new committee assignments included naming Lisa Gift and Kevin Eisenberg to the Napa County Climate

Action Committee, a consortium of elected officials from each of the county’s six jurisdictions created to address climate change through carbon emissions reductions.

Because former mayor Chris Canning and former City Councilman Gary Kraus had served as the city’s representatives on the CAC since its inception in 2019, Calistoga City Manager Laura Snideman thought the newcomers to the council would benefit from hearing about the work and the goals of the CAC. She invited David Morrison, Napa County’s interim executive officer and CAC liaison, to discuss the committee’s work to date.

“I wanted to make sure that the newly formed Council is fully aware of the work of the Climate Action Committee, as well as making sure that the decisions your prior representa-

tives had made are confirmed by this full Council as they go forward and continue their work,” Snideman said on Tuesday.

Morrison, the county staff member initially assigned to the CAC, said he was author of the county’s draft Climate Action Plan as well as author of the adopted 2011 Climate Action Plan in Yolo County where he previously worked.

The purpose of the CAC, he said, is to establish a collaborative framework to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

“Collaborative framework is a very key phrase here,” he told the Council on Tuesday. “It is not a top down regulatory agency. It is really a forum for the county, the cities, the town

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Drinks with friends



PHOTO BY CLARK JAMES MISHLER

John Clark kisses his dog, Audrey, as she laps up her favorite drink – water with lime on the side – on a recent Friday night at Johnny’s Restaurant & Bar in downtown Calistoga.

Proposed foodware regs for eateries closer to adoption

By Kim Beltran
Tribune Editor

A new set of regulations aimed at removing non-compostable and non-recyclable food containers and accessories from the waste stream took a major step Tuesday toward becoming law in Calistoga.

The City Council signed off on the proposed regulations, which will be brought back in the coming weeks for a public hearing and formal adoption as part of the city’s Municipal Code.

The new regulations require food service providers – restaurants, stores, shops, vendors, non-profit organizations or persons that offer prepared foods – to use only reusable or compostable containers. There are some exemptions but polystyrene (Styrofoam) and single-use plastic foodware items are banned, as are any other non-compostable and non-recyclable products.

The new Calistoga regulations expand on the requirements of California legislation (AB 1276) that was passed in 2021 prohibiting food facilities from providing any single-use food container, accessory or standard condiment unless requested by a consumer. Foodware accessories are defined in the Calistoga regula-

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Why you should file a tax return even if you don’t owe anything

By Grace Gedye
CalMatters State News Service

Tax season approaches: Cue dread, confusion, and mentally preparing to part with a chunk of your money.

At least, that’s how many people think of taxes.

But in recent years, especially after payments related to the pandemic and rising gas prices in California, submitting a tax return has also become key to receiving money.

Adam Kuhn learned this the hard

way. His wife, who is a contractor, lost all of her work early in the pandemic. She received some unemployment benefits, but even with Adam’s work as a software trainer, the couple’s earnings in 2020 were low enough that they didn’t owe taxes. “So why would we bother?” Kuhn, a Sacramento resident, said. They didn’t bother.

Then, in 2021, California started sending out its own pandemic stimulus payments, which reached up to \$1,200. To get the payments, you had to have filed a 2020 tax return. The state did a second round of pay-

ments in late 2021, also predicated on having filed a 2020 return.

In 2022, with gas prices soaring and a massive budget surplus on their hands, state lawmakers decided to send out another round of payments to help with the rising cost of living – again tied to 2020 tax returns.

“I wish I had filed taxes especially because, you know, it’s not that much trouble to file taxes, and especially when you don’t owe anything,” said Kuhn. “We do okay for

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SHUTTERSTOCK IMAGE

There is a network of over 100 sites across California that offer free tax prep. The help is provided by trained volunteers and the program is funded in part by the IRS. In Calistoga, the UpValley Family Centers offer a free tax preparation program for those who qualify.