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SPA FOUNDER 100 ▶

Today deemed Genoveva Quast Day by the mayor

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Stay-at-home order not likely to be lifted today

By Kim Beltran

Tribune Editor

Although efforts to contain COVID-19 received a big shot of optimism this month with administration of a vaccine, the outlook for the near future appears to remain grim.

Napa County new case numbers continue to rise, lowering the number of available ICU hospital beds and all but ensuring that a regional stay-at-home order will remain in effect beyond its initial expiration date, which is today, Jan. 8.

“We are in deep purple,” Napa County Health Officer Dr. Karen Relucio told the Board of Supervisors Tuesday in her weekly coronavirus report. “We’re probably not going to get out.”

Relucio was referring to the county’s status in the most restrictive level of the state’s four-tier, color-coded plan to combat the virus. As part of a broader Bay Area Region

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Council assures Logvy park group it’s not forgotten

■ New city clerk sworn in, committee appointments made

By Kim Beltran

Tribune Editor

The Calistoga City Council on Tuesday assured a group of locals who created a plan for recreational amenities at Logvy Park that progress to implement their recommendations will continue once the coronavirus situation is under control.

Also at their virtual meeting this week, council members saw a new city clerk seated and agreed to a list of committee appointments recommended by mayor Chris Canning.

The city purchased barbecues and picnic tables for the planned gathering area in 2019 with plans to install them in the southwest corner of the park in 2020, city recreation director Rachel Melick said. But when the coronavirus pandemic hit in March, the installation had to be postponed.

“We all received an email with [Adelante’s] concerns about this project. They were worried that we might forget about the project but it keeps moving,” said vice mayor Irais Lopez-Ortega, who has worked closely with the mostly Latino members of the group, whose Spanish name means ‘forward’ or ‘ahead.’

The City Council in November of 2019 approved a site plan – envisioned and championed by the Adelante group – that includes a barbecue area, tot lot, bocce ball courts, bike racks and landscaping.

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Where the rainbow ends



PHOTO BY CLARK JAMES MISHLER

Friendly stroll

A rainbow appears to end in the foothills of the Palisades north of Calistoga as Lucia Lind and her friend, Sammy, walk through a vineyard near Lind’s home on Grant Street. “We try to do everything outside these days. We go for walks, even in the rain. Our daughter has been spending much of her life out of doors,” said Lucia’s mom, Kara Lind, explaining her family’s activities during the coronavirus pandemic.

Commission will decide resort mural Jan. 13

By Pat Hampton

Tribune Publisher

Planning commissioners will once again discuss a public art mural proposed for the side of Dr. Wilkinson’s Resort along its Fair Way boundary after dozens of comments from the public were received at city hall.

At the meeting, resort spokesman Maki Bara will ask a third time for permission to paint an 80-foot wall with a colorful painting by local artists Will and Nikki Callman. The updated design of the mural incorporates a gray, mid-

century motif that features the geometrical design of existing cinder-block architectural features of the property. Other elements include a winding river, palm trees, flowers, and grape vines. The river transitions into a silhouette that portrays a woman ‘making a wish’.

Bara first presented the “making a wish” art concept on Nov. 18. Commissioners suggested the mural needed to better reflect the town’s agriculture heritage and the Palisades mountains. The Callmans revised the first rendering to include grapevines and the Calistoga Popcorn flower.

Bara was asked to return on Dec. 9 with another redesign. Commissioners, unable to make a decision, voted to delay the hearing to ask for public input and have the responses brought back for the Jan. 13 meeting.

Planning and building director Zach Tusinger says that he has received 55 comments from respondents that will be included for discussion next week.

Also on the agenda is a request from Indian Springs owner Daniel Merchant to add a new outdoor eating area and food and beverage business called The Terrace

Lounge at its Lincoln Avenue resort. The eatery, serving coffee, breakfast, lunch, dinner and occasional live entertainment, will be housed in a replica of a vintage 16-foot Airstream. The food venue would be open to the public.

Lastly, the five member commission will review and vote on proposed zoning code amendments limiting new downtown tasting rooms.

The virtual meeting is set for Wednesday, Jan. 13 at 5:30 p.m. through Zoom and YouTube. Go to www.ci.cityofcalistoga.ca.us for connection details.

Water, sewer bills to reflect 10% increase

By Pat Hampton

Tribune Publisher

A 10 percent increase in water and wastewater costs will be reflected in the first of the new year’s bi-monthly bills that will be mailed to 1,616 utility customers the first week in March.

The increase is the fourth in a five-year cycle that was adopted in March 2018 after months of debate between city council members and residents, who argued for relief from soaring utility bills. Under the schedule adopted by the council, fees were set to increase annually, 2018 through 2021, by 15%, 13%, 10%, 10% and 3%, respectively, in both water and wastewater services.

The increases end in January 2022 with no current plans to adjust them, said administrative services director Gloria Leon in an email.

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\$808,000 budgeted for road repairs and street maintenance

By Pat Hampton

Tribune Publisher

A new phase of the city’s five-year street maintenance program started this year with \$808,000 pinned for road repairs and reconstruction, according to city senior engineer Hamid Heidary.

On the list for repairs for 2020/2021 is the stretch of Lake Street from Grant Street east to the Silverado Trail, and Washington Street from Third Street to North Oak Street.

Residents on Cedar Street will enjoy smoother rides with repairs announced for the section between Spring Street and Lincoln Avenue during the 2021/2022 fiscal year.

The largest project on the list is reconstruction of Grant Street from Garnett Creek Court

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