

# T Calistoga Tribune

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PHOTO BY NPR

## CALISTOGA INN & THE SUNBURST



PHOTO BY PAT HAMPTON

Rosie Dunsford says the hotel rooms are open and the restaurant will soon follow – there is a banquet for 100 people on the books for August 9, with a ‘soft opening’ soon after.

## Pillows are fluffed, welcome mats out

By Pat Hampton  
Tribune Publisher

The pillows are fluffed and the welcome mats are ready to be unrolled at two iconic businesses shut for the past year for renovations and repair.

After being closed for nearly a year following a fire on August 28, 2012, the Calistoga Inn and Brewery is opening its doors again. The Inn, which has been a favorite to locals and tourists alike since Susan “Rosie” Dunsford and her son Michael Dunsford launched it in 1989, has a banquet lunch for 100 on August 9.

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PHOTO BY PAT HAMPTON

The Sunburst is the new name and feeling replacing the old Village Inn & Spa on Lincoln Avenue.

## Algae gums up filters at Kimball reservoir

■ City has to source water from North Bay Aqueduct

By Noah Hampton-Asmus  
Tribune Staff Writer

Calistoga is temporarily sourcing all of its water from the North Bay Aqueduct (NBA) because of algae in Kimball reservoir. In a press release sent out on Tuesday, the public works department reported that lower water levels, combined with summer temperatures, created the perfect conditions for algae to grow.

In an effort to avoid water that is effected by the algae, the city staff made operational changes and opened a lower side gate on the reservoir intake tower to draw water from a deeper portion of the reservoir. Mike Kirn reported that the sensors responded to cloudy water that “gummed up the filters.”

Staff is currently working to back-wash the filters and are doing exhaustive cleaning to get Kimball

reservoir back online. Kirn hoped that the problem would be fixed by the end of this week.

The city can still meet the daily demand of water for residences and businesses from the NBA.

The city typically sources half of its daily water from Kimball reservoir and half from the NBA. Voluntary conservation in the community is a part of a stage one alert.

The press release read, “We would like to encourage the public to continue to conserve water the entire summer as a matter of good stewardship of our resources.” Due to limited winter and spring rainfall, the reservoir water level is what would be expected to be seen in late summer or early fall.

The Public Works Department has informed the Department of Public Health and advised them of the current operational status.

## Chamber launches new brand, logo

■ Calistoga’s new slogan, “Make Napa Valley Yours”

By Noah Hampton-Asmus  
Tribune Staff Writer

The Calistoga Chamber of Commerce has unveiled its new logo, slogan, website, and full marketing campaign for the rebranding of Calistoga as a destination. “Make Napa Valley Yours,” reads the line under the new logo to remind visitors from afar that Calistoga is in the Napa Valley as well as to invite guests to come and be a part of the Napa Valley. The official launch of the marketing strategy was last Wednesday,

when the campaign was introduced to approximately 150 community members at Chateau Montelena.

What AugustineIdeas, the advertising agency selected for the rebranding project, discovered is that Calistoga uniquely offers “Intimate Hospitality.” Among other things, like Calistoga’s warm welcome, this refers the frequency guests can find themselves chatting with the owner of a business.

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## ‘Taco Bell’ brought conversation about town’s character to the table

By Pat Hampton  
Tribune Publisher

In March 1995, a franchise owner from Elk Grove submitted a plan to turn the former 5,000 square-foot La Vista Theatre space (now occupied by Copperfield’s Books and The Kitchen Shoppe) into a food court.

It would put Taco Bell, Pizza Hut, and Baskin and Robbins fast food restaurants smack in the center of downtown, open from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m., with the promise of new jobs and cheap food.

A group of people formed a committee called Citizens for the Preservation of Calistoga and

**A CONVERSATION**



*A special Tribune multi-part series about small towns – especially our small town – and how we are going to define ourselves over the next decade by our choices and conversations.*

**ABOUT CALISTOGA 2**

began the debate over keeping formula businesses out of Calistoga. “Will fast food downtown erode historic charm?” asked newspaper headlines.

Civic meetings drew hundreds of people on both sides of the issue. A survey by student body leaders at Calistoga Elementary School showed, while the younger classes supported the fast food court, the fifth and sixth graders were more likely to oppose it. Planning commission hearings

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## Can we talk?

## What a wave can lead to

By Michael Lennon  
Guest Commentary

Labor Day 2011 is when I began serving the guests and staff of the Calistoga Spa Hot Springs as General Manager. I had been working in San Francisco for the previous fourteen years and commuting from Santa Rosa each day for the previous twelve. My new half hour commute was a joy. After a day or two of getting oriented in my new employment I ventured out to find my new go-to morning coffee spot. I found my way into the Calistoga Roastery and while making my cup of coffee I was engaged by Clive the proprietor, not because Clive was looking to meet someone new,



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