

Calistoga Tribune

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MASKS RECOMMENDED INDOORS
AS COVID-19 CASES ON RISE



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BELOW ▼



FACEBOOK PHOTO

Northstar owner Carol Bush, left, was the first customer of new Smoke Shop owner Michael Barrett, left center, who purchased the store from Mr. Um (behind Barrett), who is retiring. Barrett's young cousins Cooper and Easton Barrett were at the store lending a helping hand on Monday. Big changes are on the horizon, Barrett said.

Papa Lou's coming to Calistoga Smoke Shop

By Pat Hampton
Tribune Publisher

There has been a Calistoga Smoke Shop and Liquor Store at 1430 Lincoln Avenue for more than 30 years, an unassuming mainstay on the town's busy avenue that takes Mike Barrett back to his childhood when, he says, he bought red rope licorice, sherbert push-ups and bub-

ble gum cigars at the store as a kid. With COVID running rampant in the Bay Area, Barrett, who grew up here and graduated from Calistoga High School in 1987, found himself coming home to visit more and more often. His family is here, and serendipity came together perfectly when the Um family recently decided to retire and sell the liquor store. On July 7, which is Barrett's

birthday, he announced on social media that he had decided to treat himself to a bottle of bourbon or two, couldn't decide what to get, "so I just bought the whole place instead!" In the weeks that followed he has spent hours cleaning, rearranging and planning for the future.

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City's property valuation grows by 7.65 percent

■ Finance Department estimated property tax growth at just 1.5% so budget windfall expected

By Pat Hampton
Tribune Publisher

Calistoga's local combined property value grew the most of any Napa County jurisdiction last year, recording a 7.65% increase in the local, taxable assessment roll released this week by Assessor-Recorder-County Clerk John Tuteur.

Tuteur presented an assessment roll of \$45.56 billion for the 2021-2022 fiscal year to county auditor controller Tracy Schulze based on the value of all local property as of Jan. 1, 2021. The roll grew by \$1.48 billion (3.35%). All of the municipalities showed an increase in their assessed property valuations: American Canyon 4.18%, Calistoga 7.65%, the City of Napa 3.59%, St. Helena 3.4% and Yountville 0.90%.

Tuteur said 1,944 properties have values lower than their Proposition 13-factored base-year values – the lowest number since the Great Recession of 2007. A portion of this decline is related to the impact of the pandemic on certain hospitality and commercial (retail) properties. The Town of Yountville had the most impact from the pandemic with almost \$14 million additional decline in value from 2020.

"This was a healthy increase given the impacts of the pandemic; the \$200 million reduction to the roll from the 2020 Glass and LNU fires and a Proposition 13 inflationary adjustment of less than 2%," Tuteur commented. "Our local assessment roll is the fourth

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Napa among several counties now saying wear masks indoors

By Kim Beltran
Tribune Editor

Napa joined the counties of Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz this week in recommending that people regardless of vaccination status wear masks indoors in public places.

"With cases of COVID-19 rising locally and increased reports of the very infectious Delta variant, the Counties of Monterey, Napa, San Benito, and Santa Cruz recommend that everyone, regardless of vaccination status, wear masks indoors in public places," a joint press release from the four counties stated. "Out of an abundance of caution, people are recommended to wear masks indoors in places like grocery or retail stores, theaters and family entertainment centers, even if they are fully vaccinated.

"Businesses are urged to adopt universal masking requirements for customers entering indoor areas of their businesses to provide better protection to their employees and customers," the statement continued. "This will also make it easier for businesses to be sure unvaccinated people are masked. Workplaces must

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Bond firm lays out city financing options with regard to fairgrounds

■ Council on Tuesday also signs up for 100% renewable energy for city buildings, facilities

By Kim Beltran
Tribune Editor

The details of two financing options were laid out Tuesday night for the Calistoga City Council which, with the support of a large number of residents, hopes to use one of the mechanisms to buy all or part of the 76-acre Napa County Fairgrounds.

The city could pursue the issuance of General Obligation Bonds, which would require an election and a two-thirds vote of support from residents whose property would be taxed to fund the bonds. Or, the council could issue Certificates of Occupation, municipal bonds secured by a lease/lease-back of city-owned properties such as the fire and police departments.

Both scenarios have pros and cons, and deciding which

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