

June 11, 2021

CONGRATULATIONS
CHS CLASS OF 2021!

INSIDE ►



Calistoga woman
at wheel of fatal
accident flown
to SR hospital

■ 69-year-old passenger in
Lucretia Marcus' vehicle
pronounced dead at scene

By Kim Beltran
Tribune Editor

A Calistoga woman was at the wheel of a vehicle that crashed into a tree north of Diamond Mountain Road Tuesday afternoon, killing one passenger and injuring another, as well as the driver.

Lucretia Marcus, 74, was taken to Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital by a California Highway Patrol helicopter with what officers described as moderate injuries. Sixty-nine-year-old Dolores Passarelli of Rhode Island, a passenger in the right front seat, was pronounced dead at the scene.

A second passenger riding in the right rear seat – Michelle Passarelli, 67, also sustained moderate injuries and was taken by ambulance to Napa's Queen of the

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Kimball bypass,
water contract
up for adoption

By Kim Beltran
Tribune Editor

In addition to a resolution adopting the 2021-22 fiscal year budget, the Calistoga City Council on Tuesday will consider approval of a Final Bypass Plan for Kimball Dam and Reservoir as well as a 2021 Drought Year Water Supply agreement with the city of Napa.

Other items up for consideration on the agenda next week include a plan to place two additional stop signs at the intersection

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Gudenius first Calistoga educator to win
Napa County Teacher of the Year award



PHOTO BY CLARK JAMES MISHLER

Calistoga Elementary School first-grade teacher Matthew Gudenius, aka Mr. G, pauses with his class Wednesday morning for photo. Gudenius has been named Napa County Teacher of the Year.

First-grade teacher honored to be chosen

By Kim Beltran
Tribune Editor

When COVID-19 shut down schools in March of 2020, there was little guidance and even less distance-learning curriculum available for administrators and teachers to follow or use.

During those tumultuous and uncertain times, Calistoga Elementary School first-grade teacher Matthew Gudenius wanted to come up with something that would engage his young students and keep them learning while health and school officials worked to develop a consistent online education plan.

One of his ideas – a series of video lessons in which he appears as different characters to teach spelling and reading

skills – was so popular with his students and their parents that he continued to produce the 5- to 7-minute productions, eventually creating a *YouTube.com* page in order to share them with any other educators or parents who wanted to use them.

It was these videos, he believes, that helped him become the first Calistoga Joint Unified School District educator to be named Napa County Teacher of the Year 2021.

Gudenius, who has been teaching for 19 years (the last 14 of those at CES), was chosen from among 350 other Napa County teachers who were nominated by members of the community – colleagues, peers, students' parents, etc., said Seana Wagner, director of

Communications and Special Projects for the Napa County Office of Education, which coordinates the contest. Teacher nominations came in from all five Napa County public school districts – Napa Valley, St. Helena, Howell Mountain, Pope Valley and Calistoga – and some private schools, she said. Nominated teachers are then invited to apply for consideration by submitting a written essay and a recommendation from their school principal.

From there, three finalists were selected for classroom observations before a winner was named.

According to Wagner, the Teacher of the Year program

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County in
yellow tier
for COVID

By Pat Hampton
Tribune Publisher

Napa and Alameda counties joined several of their Bay Area counterparts when the state announced Wednesday that they were cleared to move into the COVID-19 yellow tier – the least restrictive of the state's coronavirus recovery plan levels.

Of the nine bay area counties, only Sonoma, Solano and Contra Costa remain in the orange tier of the state's Blueprint for a Safer Economy.

But the yellow tier's looser rules will be short-lived as the state is expected to abandon the Blueprint for a Safer Economy on June 15, eight months after Gov. Gavin Newsom announced the color-coded system last August.

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In lieu of parade,
group urging
patriotic decor

By Pat Hampton
Tribune Publisher

Faced with postponing the annual 4th of July parade for a second year because of COVID-19 restrictions, Celebrate! Napa Valley board members have decided to switch things up and let Calistoga be the parade instead.

Maggie Maib said the group is encouraging all business- and homeowners to decorate their buildings as "stationary floats" that will join others on a neighborhood map for residents to walk, bike or drive by and vote on their favorite site.

Top prize for the best decorated home is \$1,000 for first place,

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Sixth-graders promote during limited in-person ceremony

Calistoga Elementary School sixth-grader Leslie Sandoval smiles behind her mask after receiving her certificate of promotion during a ceremony held on the school's back lot Wednesday night. Fifty-eight students were promoted to seventh grade, which is on the Calistoga Junior-Senior High School campus.

PHOTO BY
CLARK JAMES MISHLER



By Kim Beltran
Tribune Editor

Gratitude was the enduring theme of Calistoga Elementary School's sixth-grade promotion ceremony Wednesday night, with young speaker after speaker thanking everyone from their parents and teachers to the paraprofessionals, lunch ladies and custodians for the support they provided the group on its educational journey.

"I asked to give a speech not because I enjoy speaking in public – because I don't – but because I wanted to thank all of the

amazing teachers at Calistoga Elementary School," graduate Lola Weakley told her 57 classmates and a crowd of teachers, administrators and family members numbering between 232 and 295 people.

With COVID-19 regulations changing by the minute the last few weeks, plans for the ceremony went from a drive-through event to a student-only daytime celebration to the celebration that took place Wednesday evening on the school's back lot.

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