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PHOTOS BY CLARK JAMES MISHLER

Small group stages rally in wake of protests

By Linda Williamson  
Tribune Correspondent

A small group of local residents gathered in downtown Calistoga on Sunday to add their voices to the national chorus of those peacefully protesting the killing of Minnesota resident George Floyd at the hands of police, rejecting racism and standing for change.

The rally at the corner of Lincoln Avenue and Washington Street included 20 women and three men and was organized by Calistoga Can, a local grassroots group supporting political change.

“That guy, he died because somebody was angry,” said Calistoga resident, business owner and City Council member Irais Lopez Ortega, who attended the peaceful protest wearing a face mask with the words “I cannot breathe” written across it in black marker. “It’s just so sad. We have to do better because we all have to live in this world together.”

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Above, Jennifer Norris, left, kneels in a Lincoln Avenue crosswalk during a red light along with two other unidentified women on Sunday to protest police violence against African Americans.

At left, Norris holds a sign that reads “One Human Family” as fellow protesters Irais Lopez Ortega, right, and Buster Davis, left, stand at the corner of Washington Street and Lincoln Avenue.

9 new cases of COVID-19 in Calistoga

■ Eight of the people who tested positive are members of one family, according to county

By Pat Hampton  
Tribune Publisher

Napa County Public Health officials announced Wednesday that nine Calistoga residents had tested positive for COVID-19 in a period of 24 hours, confirming rumors that had already begun to spread here two days prior.

Eight of the new cases were members of one household, discovered after a food handler at a popular grocer and taqueria was sent

See **COVID** page 8

Council seeks data on city’s need for affordable housing

By Kim Beltran  
Tribune Editor

The Calistoga City Council wants more concrete data on whether or not housing for people earning low, very low and extremely low incomes is needed here before it decides whether to allow a new affordable housing project to proceed.

Officials with For the Future Housing, who have stepped up to build an already-approved 78-unit apartment complex that was abandoned by its former developer, said they

See **COUNCIL** page 8

Local woman reports scary bear encounter on Oat Hill Mine Trail

By Kim Beltran  
Tribune Editor

A Calistoga woman hiking the Oat Hill Mine Road Trail with her husband and two adult friends last week came nearly face-to-face with a large black bear that charged the group and sent them running for their lives.

Brenda Haro said she and her husband, Jose, hike the popular trail two or three times a month, sometimes with friends; sometimes with their three children ages 13, 9 and 6.

On Monday, May 25, the group of four adults had just reached the 3-mile marker on the trail, Haro said, when she began hearing loud sounds like tree branches breaking and bushes

rustling. Just as one of the friends was suggesting that it was most likely a deer, the group spotted a large bear, brown and reddish brown in color, about 80 feet away from them, up a small rise above the trail.

“He saw us and stood up,” Haro said. “Then he started running down the hill toward the trail and toward us. We took off. It was just the most scariest thing ever.”

Haro said even as she was running away, she could hear the bear grunting and breathing loudly as it ran behind them. As she ran, Haro dropped a pack she was carrying that had two burritos

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ATAC pedals bike plan to council

By Pat Hampton  
Tribune Publisher

The Active Transportation Advisory Committee (ATAC) voted unanimously this week to ask the City Council to approve the 2019 Napa County-wide Bicycle Plan and use Measure T monies to help facilitate it.

Planning director Zach Tusinger said ATAC’s recommendation to adopt the plan will go to the council sometime in July.

The commission also agreed on amending the plan

to include traffic calming and safety measures for a popular walking/biking trail dubbed The Loop by local users.

Bike enthusiast Ed Kozel approached the committee at Wednesday’s meeting to ask that traffic calming measures on the busy Cedar Street stretch of The Loop be taken into consideration.

Kozel pointed out that with so many pedestrians, bicyclists and vehicles sharing the road more attention to the safety of all users was warranted.

Several community outreach events were held

throughout Napa County to share ideas and solicit input on existing and proposed facilities.

Committee member Ivan Miller suggested providing the route along Money Lane toward Mora Avenue with better access and connection to Greenwood and Mora Avenues.

Many factors contribute to people choosing to ride a bicycle, the report found, with a major factor being the rider’s

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