

Calistoga Tribune

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PHOTO BY CLARK JAMES MISHLER

- ◀ **CHS COMMENCEMENT**
Class of 2018 makes it official, receiving high school diplomas
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Council set to put TOT increase on Nov. ballot

By Kim Beltran
Tribune Editor

The City of Calistoga is moving ahead with a plan to raise the tax on overnight visitor accommodations to help pay for affordable and workforce housing projects. At its next meeting on June 19, the City Council is expected to adopt a resolution calling for a measure on the November ballot that

would increase the city's Transient Occupancy Tax from 12 to 13 percent. Revenue from the one percent increase, estimated to be about \$500,000 annually, would be dedicated to housing-related expenditures. Considered a "special tax," the ballot measure would require a two-thirds majority vote to pass. If approved, it would take effect

Jan. 1, 2019. Members of the local lodging industry are on board with the proposal because it is intended to help create more "workforce" housing that would benefit their employees, according to mayor Chris Canning, who also serves as executive director of the Calistoga Chamber

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Dillon leading Perez while Measure C too close to call

By Pat Hampton
Tribune Publisher



Diane Dillon leads challenger Cio Perez in District 3 race.

Incumbent Diane Dillon was leading challenger Cio Perez in the race for Napa County's District 3 supervisor seat by 422 votes at last count late Tuesday night. The hotly-contested Measure C – an Oak Woodlands and Watershed protection initiative – was leading by just 40 votes with over 14,000

ballots counted, according to county elections officer John Tuteur. The initiative to restrict new, private heliports, Measure D, was ahead by 3,147 votes, outpacing its opponents 8,689 to 5,542 votes. And, U.S. Congressman Mike Thompson (D-St. Helena) easily defeated his three opponents.

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CHS graduates look forward with hope

Calistoga High School graduating senior Josie Collins smiles and waves as she walks up to receive her diploma during commencement exercises June 1 at the Napa County Fairgrounds grandstand last Friday night. Classmates, (foreground left to right) Austin Andrews, Eduardo Avina and Benji Cardona applaud. Forty-eight students graduated this year.



PHOTO BY CLARK JAMES MISHLER

On their special day, seniors are grateful for supporters

By Kim Beltran
Tribune Editor

Members of Calistoga High School's Class of 2018 shared their smiles and hopes for a bright future last Friday night during their commencement ceremony at the Napa County Fairgrounds. But student speakers, to a person, thanked those that had helped them along the way – parents, teachers, siblings, friends – and said they would cherish memories of their years together in Calistoga. "We are looking toward the future but leaving with sadness and fond memories," Associated

Student Body president Gilda Rojas said in her graduation speech. "Thank you for the memories, Calistoga High School." Principal Craig Wycoff presided over the ceremony during which 48 seniors received their diplomas from school district superintendent Erin Smith-Hagberg and trustee Indira Lopez. The graduates appeared relaxed and were well behaved but Wycoff had to admonish the capacity crowd several times for talking during the student speeches and presentations.

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Eighth-graders celebrate yearly right-of-passage to high school

By Pat Hampton
Tribune Publisher

It was a night of mixed emotions and startling contrasts as 49 young teenagers accepted diplomas, balloons and cheers at Thursday night's junior high graduation ceremony in the Wildcat gym. In front of a standing room only audience packed tightly into the bleacher stands inside the new gym, 13- and 14-year-old students talked openly to friends and family members from a portable dias

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PHOTO BY GENE DUFFY

Trustee Julie Elkeshen congratulates Chloe Hermann as she hands her a junior high diploma at Thursday's ceremony.

Free recreation programs will cost city \$80,000

By Kim Beltran
Tribune Editor

The proposed 2018-19 budget, which the City Council is expected to adopt on June 19, will include an additional \$80,000 in the expenses column in order to provide free recreation programs for kids. At a budget study session in May, council members asked staff to return with a budget adjustment showing how much it would cost to provide recreation programs free of charge. It has long been a goal of the current council to add more types of recreation activities for residents at reduced rates or free of charge, especially for children.

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Public weighs in on separate hotel, housing developments

By Kim Beltran
Tribune Editor

Development-wary Calistogans weighed in this week on separate proposals that, while unrelated, would change the face of the neighborhoods in which they would be built. Their concerns ranged from whether they would be allowed to use private spa facilities at a new downtown hotel to whether their unimpeded views of vineyards and Mt. St. Helena beyond would be blocked by new two-story homes. In between, there was anxiety about increased traffic, burdening city resources such as water and sewer, and emergency ingress and egress. Proponents of the Yellow Rose

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