



## ▼ PATIENT PREPARATION

Local healthcare providers are taking steps to deal with virus

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## City, businesses take further steps to prevent disease spread



PHOTO BY CLARK JAMES MISHLER

In consultation with city officials, Cal Mart on Tuesday began limiting the number of people allowed inside the store at one time to 20, restricting access to the store via only the front door and placing blue tape on the floor to help people gauge their distance from one another.

## Stores restrict hours, number of shoppers; no group sports activities allowed at parks; school district postpones classes until May 1

By Kim Beltran

Tribune Editor

In the week since both California Gov. Gavin Newsom and Napa County Public Health declared a shelter-at-home order to combat the spread of COVID-19, extra steps have been taken locally to help people maintain a safe distance from each other.

On Monday, both the City of Calistoga and the Calistoga Joint Unified School District announced

that they were suspending all contact and group sports because of people playing pick-up games of soccer and basketball in parks and on school grounds, as well as tennis and racquetball at the city's Monhoff Center. In addition, school officials announced this week that classes will not resume until at least May 1.

The town's one and only grocery store, Cal Mart, in consultation with city officials, on Tuesday began limiting the number of

people allowed inside the store at one time to 20, restricting access to the store via only the front door and placing blue tape on the floor to help people gauge their distance from one another.

Calistoga mayor Chris Canning in a special City Council meeting held March 20 said that while most business owners in town had been adhering to the new rules under the shelter-at-home order, there were

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Through the front door window, a free-standing sign announces the temporary closure of Calistoga's Mt. View Hotel due to a state-wide shelter-at-home order issued to control the spread of COVID-19, a new coronavirus that has brought the U.S. and global economies to a standstill.

PHOTO BY  
CLARK JAMES MISHLER



## Budget planning turns to belt tightening for Council

■ TOT loss for March estimated at \$438,000

By Kim Beltran

Tribune Editor

Normally this time of year, the Calistoga City Council begins a series of meetings to set its finances for the coming fiscal year.

Instead, the council met in special session last Friday to declare a local emergency over the novel coronavirus COVID-19 and ponder the financial hit the city's budget is going to take because of it.

The proclamation of an emergency allows the city to recover certain expenses related to the pandemic should state and federal funding become available.

But whether that funding comes through, and whether it

will even come close to covering the losses remains unknown, in spite of the passage by Congress late Tuesday night of a massive \$2 trillion economic stimulus package.

While the economic hit to local businesses is yet to be calculated, one thing everyone seems to agree on is that it will be ugly.

City manager Mike Kirm told the Tribune this week that he and his finance team are expecting a loss of 95 percent of projected transient occupancy taxes for March – approximately \$438,000. The TOT, a hotel room tax paid by overnight visitors, is the city's largest source of income, accounting for 53 percent (\$6.4 million) of all revenue in this year's budget.

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## Local healthcare providers readying for COVID-19 patients

By Pat Hampton

Tribune Publisher

As the number of Napa County residents confirmed to have COVID-19 began increasing this week, local health care providers said they've made significant changes in their delivery of services to meet challenges of a pandemic overwhelming the world's health care systems, economies and social fabric.

Adventist Health St. Helena, the closest acute-care hospital to Calistoga, moved to limit visitors to the Deer Park campus this week and said it has established several isolation areas for patients who may have to be hospitalized with COVID-19.

Kaiser Permanente has closed its Calistoga satellite office on Foothill Boulevard in the Riverlea Square business park, said Kaiser spokesperson Chyresse Hill in an email "in order to maximize the safety of



our patients, staff and community." Hill said the healthcare giant has "open access to telephone and video visits."

Family medicine physician Jeannette Williams, whose office is located in Calistoga, said none of her patients have asked to be tested for COVID-19 but she acknowledged that those in her small practice are very

aware of the virus and are staying home. Because she has a high percentage of elderly patients "most are following the rules," she said.

Healthcare providers are on high alert since Napa County as of Wednesday had confirmed six cases of residents testing positive for COVID-19. Napa County Public

Adventist Health St. Helena began limiting visitors to its Deer Park facility this week and a spokeswoman said the hospital has set up isolation areas for treating patients who come in with COVID-19. The hospital has also set up an advice line to answer questions about the disease, caused by a new coronavirus that originated in China.

Health Officer Dr. Karen Relucio announced late Sunday morning that the first person who tested positive for Covid-19 had been identified as a Napa resident. Several hours later, at 5 p.m., her office announced that a second resident was positive for the disease.

In a KVON radio interview Monday, she said one patient was a law enforcement officer who lives in Napa but works in another county, and the second a St. Helena resident who had traveled outside the state. No information has been given about the third person, also a Napa resident.

Three more cases, two Napa residents and one hometown unknown, were confirmed on Wednesday. The county is tracking work and family contacts of all six patients from before and after they were tested, Relucio said.

At Adventist Health St. Helena, no visi-

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