

# Calistoga Tribune

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HAIL OF A GAME

CHS baseball team behind 11-0 when game called due to weather

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## School board increases fees it can charge to developers

By Kim Beltran  
Tribune Editor

The fees that the Calistoga Joint Unified School District can charge developers of new construction are going up.

Beginning July 8, builders of residential projects within CJUSD boundaries will pay \$4.39 per square foot – up from the current \$4.08. Fees on commercial project builders will go from 66 cents per square foot to 78 cents.

Following a public hearing Monday night in which there was no public comment, the district's board of trustees approved a study justifying the rate increases as well as a resolution codifying them.

According to the study – required by law to show that a fee increase is warranted – new construction in the city of Calistoga over the next 25 years is expected to increase the district's student population by 103 new students.

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## CJUSD, employees reach agreement on salary contracts

By Kim Beltran  
Tribune Editor

Calistoga school trustees on Monday approved tentative contracts with its employee groups, including the Calistoga Associated Teachers union and members of the California School Employees Association No. 555.

Employees in the two union groups, CAT and CSEA, will receive a 5.25% salary increase each of the next two years. The increase will also be retroactive to July 1, 2021.

The district will also increase by \$200 the amount it pays toward teacher and employee monthly premiums for medical, dental and vision benefits – from \$1,100 to \$1,300 per employee per month.

In addition, all employees will receive a \$2,000 "off-schedule, one-time stipend."

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## Community building



PHOTOS BY CLARK JAMES MISHLER

*The Brannan Center Ambassadors, a diverse group of Calistoga and other upvalley citizens interested in ensuring the Brannan Center's success, celebrated their first anniversary on May 5 with a fun gathering at a private Calistoga home.*

## Brannan Center growing ambassador team

By Kim Beltran  
Tribune Editor

After a two-year lull in forward progress, the non-profit Brannan Center team is picking up steam as it moves toward giving an historic church building new life as a grand community center.

Although the group's board of directors has made strides since its formation in 2020, the coronavirus pandemic slowed its community outreach efforts, which include the formation of an Ambassador Program – designed to bring together representatives from throughout the community to act as advocates and information conduits on behalf of the

Brannan Center.

"The purpose of the Brannan Center is to restore, enliven and cultivate human spirit through community, creativity and learning," said Cyndi Jung, a Calistoga resident who joined the Ambassadors a year ago. "The Brannan Center board reached out to many of the ambassadors to ask them to be the eyes and ears of the community for the Brannan Center. And like all evolving groups, word of mouth has been a way for us to add to the membership and enthusiasm for the Brannan Center. We welcome anyone who would be interested in joining a dynamic group of individuals who are working toward making the Brannan Center a place for all

in the community."

Known for decades as the "green church," the Community Presbyterian Church had been home to weekly religious services for Presbyterians since 1871 when it was built at the corner of Washington and Third streets on land donated by town founder Sam Brannan, 15 years before Calistoga became a city.

Over the years, the church also served as a "home" for community groups, offering meeting space to the Girl Scouts, the Rotary Club, Bennett Valley 4-H, Alcoholics Anonymous, ESL, and other continuing education

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## Rafael Rios makes six for District 3 job

By Pat Hampton  
Tribune Publisher

Rafael Rios, one of six candidates for the Napa County District 3 supervisor's seat, addressed the Calistoga Rotary Club last Thursday as the final contestant for the seat – held by Diane Dillon, who is retiring from the board.

Rios answered the same five questions posed to the other five candidates who have met with the Rotary Club and expressed their ideas on the fairgrounds, land use, housing and water use.

The following is a transcript of Rios' address to club members.

"I grew up here in the UpValley in the Rutherford area as the son of farm workers. I came to the valley when I was about two years old, before I turned three; immigrated here from Mexico, and I grew up in St. Helena. I went to public schools, went to UC Davis, Santa Clara University School of Law, and Sonoma State University, where I got an MBA in wine business. And my whole family still lives here. I've been a part of this community my entire life.

I have actually served on the Napa Valley College district board. This is my 10th year, so that is my political experience. I've served on the real property committee for the district, the budget and finance committee. I've been president, vice president during these 10 years. I've always viewed it as community service. I know it's an elected position in political office, but my community service kind of moved up from serving just a number of nonprofit boards throughout the county.

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Rafael Rios

## Employers be warned: Workers under 18 must have permit

By Kim Beltran  
Tribune Editor

Through her work as Calistoga Joint Unified School District's School Resource Officer, Calistoga Police Officer Sam Arlen discovered that many students are working jobs without a state-mandated work permit.

Now she's on a mission to educate not only the students about this requirement but parents and employers as well.

In a Chamber of Commerce-sponsored webinar held Tuesday, Arlen shared that there are special rules and regulations that employers must follow if they employ minors – anyone under the age of 18.

The first step is having an approved work permit on file.

Under the California Labor Code, "minor" is defined as any person under the age of 18 years required to attend school under the provisions of the Education Code. "Dropouts" are subject to California's compulsory education laws, and thus are subject to all state child labor law requirements. Emancipated minors, while subject to all California's child labor laws, may apply for a work permit without their parents' permission.

Except in limited circumstances defined in law and summarized in the Child Labor Law Booklet, all minors under 18 years of age employed in the state of California must have a

permit to work.

"I'm happy that students want to get part-time jobs and take on that responsibility and get into the workforce, but they have to do it the right way," said Arlen. "And we're finding that there was a gap in that."

The law is "very clear," Arlen said. "It's a one sheet piece of paper. I want to make sure our business owners understand that. I want to make sure everybody does it the right way, and also legally, because the business that I spoke with did not have [a permit] on file for the students."

A business without the proper permits on See PERMIT page 3