

Calistoga Tribune

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PHOTO BY KIM BELTRAN

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Softball, baseball teams combine for 101 runs in doubleheaders
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PHOTOS BY PAUL PEDERSEN

Calistoga Joint Unified School District music instructor Nina Pedersen, above, leads Calistoga Elementary School students during a spring performance held Tuesday night in the school's multipurpose room. Below, sisters Myka Suhr, left, a third grader, and

Monica Suhr, a fifth grader, play ukuleles and sing 'You Are My Sunshine' during the concert. Pedersen, who has taught in the district for 12 years, says another full-time music teacher is needed, and she has received the district's OK to raise money to hire one.

Teacher fundraising to hire another music instructor

By Kim Beltran
Tribune Editor

Nina Pedersen teaches band, choir and general music to every K-3 student at Calistoga Elementary School and to about 145 students in fourth through

12th grades. She prepares them for and oversees winter and spring concerts each year, leads the band during Friday night home foot-

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City budget flush; council pushes for rec spending

By Kim Beltran
Tribune Editor

With \$11.6 million in projected revenues, \$10.1 million in anticipated expenses and a General Fund reserve of more than \$5.5 million, the city of Calistoga is in strong financial shape heading into the next fiscal year.

So strong, in fact, that City Council members asked Recreation Department manager Rachel Melick to come back with a plan to offer all of its programs free of charge.

"We've said before that no recreation program would be denied whether for a child or senior because of an inability to pay," mayor Chris Canning said during a five-hour budget study session last week. "From this council member's perspective, we're not spending enough in this category."

Melick and city manager Dylan Feik estimated that it could cost \$150,000 to offer

TOT, pot plant increases on tap

By Kim Beltran
Tribune Editor

The City Council is taking steps to increase the tax on overnight visitor accommodations by one percent and dedicating those new funds to creating affordable housing.

The council is also considering revision of an ordinance it modified last year allowing residents to grow up to two marijuana plants outdoors. At that time, council members said they would revisit the issue to decide whether to allow up to six plants – the maximum under state law – to be grown outside for personal use.

The one percent Transient Occupancy Tax increase, which would be placed on the November ballot as a special

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Halfway there: Bridge crew switches sides

Northbound lane of new Lincoln Ave. bridge open; work starts on south side

By Pat Hampton
Tribune Publisher

With the completion of the first-half of the new \$10 million Lincoln Avenue bridge Wednesday morning, proprietress Rosie Dunsford raised a glass of champagne, saluting northbound traffic and the return of pedestrians and frontage views of the Calistoga Inn, a popular restaurant and her son Michael Dunsford own at the corner of Cedar Street and Lincoln Avenue.

Chainlink fencing, cement barriers and blocked sidewalks over the past 12 months presented an obstacle course to customers trying to get to the inn and brewery for lunch and dinner.

The impacts also affected other businesses on the corner and along Lincoln Avenue, but the Inn seemed to bear the brunt.

Before construction on the new bridge started in July 2017, AT&T needed to relocate a significant portion of its infrastructure, and they will be



PHOTO BY PAT HAMPTON

Rosie Dunsford celebrates the finishing of the first half of the bridge replacement work Wednesday during lunch at the Calistoga Inn.

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PHOTO BY PAT HAMPTON

The northbound lanes of the Lincoln Avenue replacement bridge opened before lunch Wednesday as Caltrans crews began the switch to start construction on the second half of the \$10 million project.

CJUSD, teachers come to terms on 2017-18 contract

By Granville Fox
Tribune Reporter

After months of deliberation, the Calistoga Joint Unified School District and Calistoga Teachers Association have reached agreement on a contract that provides a 4 percent salary bump for teachers, counselors and site staff retroactive to July 1, 2017.

The new contract, which ends June 30, 2018, increases the starting salary for district teachers to \$65,840 with pay maxing out at \$122,511. The previous salary range for a teacher was \$63,207 to a high of \$117,611.

Counselor salaries will see a similar jump with a new starting wage of \$74,361, up from approximately \$71,387, and topping out at \$138,366, up from \$132,832.

Other on-site staff including aides, cooks, paraprofessionals, technicians, custodians and secretaries will also receive a 4 percent wage increase.

In addition, co-curricular positions

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