

Calistoga Tribune

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Williams leads in council race; two incumbents tied for second

By Kim Beltran
Tribune Editor

Challenger and political-newcomer Donald Williams was leading the two incumbents in the race for Calistoga City Council by 193 votes after the Napa County Elections Department’s initial ballot count Tuesday night.

But with thousands of ballots from throughout Napa County left to count, the final outcome of that race – as well as several others – could be vastly different come Friday night.

The county’s Registrar of Voters John Tuteur on Wednesday told the Tribune that he estimates as many as 35,000 ballots remain to be processed. He said he figures as many as 1,100 of those ballots will be from Calistoga.

Election results released Tuesday night included all ballots that had been received either by U.S. mail or delivered to a drop box or vote center by Monday evening, said Tu-



Donald Williams Jim Barnes Gary Kraus

teur. A new count to be conducted on Friday will include all ballots received and verified through Thursday, including those cast or dropped off on Election Day.

Of Calistoga’s 2,496 registered voters, the ballots of 744

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PG&E says Calistoga power a top priority

By Kim Beltran
Tribune Editor

Keeping the city of Calistoga energized when conditions call for a power shutdown is among Pacific Gas & Electric’s top priorities, a senior official said Wednesday night at a meeting addressing impacts to the community from the utility company’s new wildfire safety policy.

In fact, with conditions ripe for a second planned

power shutoff yesterday, PG&E had earlier in the week installed a giant, temporary generator north of the city that would keep the lights on in the event that the power grid is turned off.

“Obviously, the situation and the way the grid is configured is somewhat unique here, and especially with this community having experienced this

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Majority of English learner students test well

By Claudia Aceves
Tribune Reporter

Test results designed to gauge the progress of how well non-English-speaking students are transitioning to the language show that 76 percent scored in the two highest levels of the assessments.

Calistoga Joint Unified School District’s Michael DeFrancesco, director of Educational Services, told school trustees Monday night that of the 301 students in the district who took the 2017-18 English Language Proficiency Assessment for California, 118 scored at level four (well developed) and 112 scored at level three, moderately developed.

“When we determine what level the English learner is, then we can design what level of support they’re gonna get,” DeFrancesco said. “The score from this test is also one of the criteria we include

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CHAMPS!



PHOTO BY TONY FLORES

Members of the Calistoga High School volleyball team hoist their North Coast Section Division VI championship plaque after beating Jewish Community of San Francisco 3-1 in Wildcat Gym last Saturday night. The win propelled the Calistoga team on to the NorCal Sectionals, where they unfortunately lost to Redding Christian in Palo Cedro Wednesday night. They’re still champions in our eyes. For more photos and the story, please go to Page 10.

Caltrans gearing up to repair three damaged bridges

■ Agency spokesman says work on Lincoln Ave. bridge to wrap by mid-December

By Kim Beltran
Tribune Editor

Caltrans is gearing up to repair three more Calistoga-area bridges even as work on the Lincoln Avenue span nears completion.

The state transportation agency is hosting an open house for residents on Tuesday to offer information on what it is calling the “Bridge Preventive Maintenance and Scour Measures Project.” The public is also invited to comment on an environmental review document that shows work on the Garnett Creek Branch bridge, the Garnett Creek bridge and the “No Name Creek” bridge “will not significantly affect the quality of the environment.”

All three bridges are on Highway 29 north of Calistoga. The Garnett Creek Branch bridge, built in 1920, is approximately 1.8 miles north of town at post mile 38.96, followed by the Garnett Creek bridge (originally built in 1902 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places) at post mile 39.08. The No Name Creek bridge, built in 1923, is further up the highway at post mile 42.83.

Work on the three-bridge project, which isn’t likely to begin before 2021, according to a Caltrans spokesperson, will “address existing scour damage and perform preventive maintenance to reduce future scour damage.”

“The structural integrity of all

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Buy a mattress, support CHS band

By Claudia Aceves
Tribune Reporter

Better sleep for you could mean music education for Calistoga band students.

Music teacher Nina Pedersen and her Calistoga High School band students are hosting a new-mattress sale this Sunday to help them get to a Hollywood competition in April.

Aside from raising funds for that four-day trip – where the CHS band will compete at the Heritage Festival for the fourth time – the mattress fundraiser will also benefit music programs for the high school as well

as the elementary school band program, said Pedersen.

A mattress “store” will be set up in the high school’s multi-purpose room from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., where shoppers can test out mattresses and, upon purchasing, schedule free delivery and removal of their old mattress. Prices, up to 50 percent off retail from major manufacturers, will range from \$199 and up for a twin-size mattress to \$399 and up for a California king. All mattresses are brand new.

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2018-19 CJSBS band members are raising funds to be able to attend a band competition in Hollywood in April. They are hosting a mattress sale at the school tomorrow.