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Contractor navigates Pioneer Park footbridge into place

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Officials exhort public to resist all gatherings

By Kim Beltran

Tribune Editor

Calistoga City officials on Tuesday implored residents to help fight the alarming rise in new COVID-19 cases by staying within their household bubbles and not gathering in groups for any reason, including holiday celebrations.

With new infections spiking sharply throughout California over the past month, Gov. Gavin Newsom's administration this week "pulled the emergency brake" on

relaxed restrictions that had allowed for expanded business activities and small, socially-distanced get-togethers.

Napa was one of 41 counties moved to the most restrictive purple tier of the state's color-coded, four-tier virus recovery plan. Purple indicates that there is "widespread" risk of disease transmission. Restaurants, winery tasting rooms, fitness centers, movie theaters and churches are no longer allowed to conduct business indoors.

"We're not happy about our situ-

ation, going back to purple," Calistoga mayor Chris Canning said during the City Council's Zoom meeting Tuesday evening. "This will undoubtedly have significant impacts. It's another blow to an economy that's taken one hit after another. The fastest way we can get this turned around is for everyone to behave themselves. Wear your masks, wash your hands and do not do social gatherings."

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PHOTO BY CLARK JAMES MISHLER

Hydro Grill customers dine recently at an outdoor parklet located in front of the Lincoln Avenue restaurant. As of Wednesday, indoor dining – which had been allowed at 50% capacity – is no longer allowed.

Planning Commish: Wilkinson mural needs work to reflect Calistoga

By Pat Hampton

Tribune Publisher

Butterflies and golden poppies depicted on a proposed 80-foot brick wall mural for Dr. Wilkinson's Resort don't reflect the area's rural, wine country attributes, Calistoga Planning Commission members said.

The spa owner and artists were sent back to the drawing board Wednesday night by a 5-0 vote to return at a later date with a final version that commissioners could clearly visualize.

Spa spokesperson Maki Bara said the wall that faces Fair Way and the Cal Mark parking lot is a huge blank space and it was important to have elements of the community reflected in the art placed there. She pointed out that palm trees and water are dominant features of the town and the theme of "Making a Wish" would wend around the corner of the mid-century building to a forgotten wish-

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PHOTO BY CLARK JAMES MISHLER

Beautiful day for a cruise

A group of bicyclists take advantage of a crisp, clear fall day to hit the road and enjoy a cruise along Calistoga's Lincoln Avenue over the weekend. Those clear, sunny skies gave way to a mild winter storm that brought much-needed rain to the valley, the Bay Area and parts of Northern California. Complete rainfall totals

for Calistoga weren't available at press time Wednesday night but a county precipitation recorder at the Berry Street Bridge showed .75 inches of rain for the 24-hour period ending Wednesday evening at 5:40 p.m. Sunshine was scheduled to return today and remain for the next seven days, along with high temperatures in the mid- to high 60s and overnight lows hovering around 37 degrees.

Bullwhips, alcohol now banned in city's parks

■ It is now illegal to drink in any public city park

By Kim Beltran

Tribune Editor

In amending a city ordinance to ban the use of alcohol in city parks, the Calistoga City Council also added bullwhips to a list of devices that are prohibited in these public recreation spaces.

The council also added hours of operation to the parks – open from sunrise to one hour after sunset.

The changes were needed to give law enforcement officers the ability to deal with unruly park patrons responsible for a sustained uptick in complaint calls – mostly at Pioneer Park, Calistoga Police Chief Mitch Celaya said Tuesday.

"I've gone to the park on a daily basis; my staff goes to the park routinely. Everyone is always on their best behavior," he told City Council members. "But as soon as we leave the park then we start experiencing complaints, and they're usually associated with alcohol use."

The coronavirus pandemic has led to a big increase in use of the city parks, said the chief. With kids distance-learning and essential businesses closed, families and residents not normally home during the day are frequenting the parks. Recreation and fitness classes that can't be held indoors are taking place at Pioneer Park,

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Pioneer Park pedestrian bridge put in place

Look familiar? The Berry Street footbridge has been repurposed as the Pioneer Park pedestrian bridge and was put in place Tuesday, spanning the Napa River from the park to the Community Center parking lot.

PHOTO BY CLARK JAMES MISHLER



By Pat Hampton

Tribune Publisher

Pedestrians, bicyclists, dog walkers and baby strollers should be able to cross the Napa River from Pioneer Park to the Community Center parking lot by New Year's Day when a 110-foot steel footbridge is locked into place.

Public Works director Derek Rayner said this week that the bridge work contract awarded to Gordon N. Bell, Inc. of Alamo in August is almost at an end. The

steel bridge, originally used as the Berry Street footbridge by students and parents going to and from the elementary school in 2017, was moved into place this week by a huge crane.

Work on the repurposed bridge's walking surface and end approaches are next. Plans show three steps leading up to the landing with guardrails and a handicap ramp on the Community Center side and a sloped walkway into the

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