

Calistoga Tribune

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Calistoga Hills gets city OK for minor changes

By Claudia Aceves

Tribune Reporter

The Calistoga Planning Commission on Wednesday approved a request by Calistoga Hills Resort to relocate several accessory structures that were part of the original proposal to a section of property that was purchased after the project was approved.

The additional 12.32 acres, adjacent to the original 88-acre resort property at 411 Foothill Boulevard, was incorporated into the larger parcel with a lot line adjustment in 2015. The smaller parcel, which will house an emergency access road to the resort, is at 515 Foothill.

Resort owners also received approval for an addendum to be included in the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) for the additional property.

Project manager Aaron Harkin said he would not be proposing any new uses or structures on the smaller property and that the main entrance at Madrona Drive would continue to be the only point of public access to the resort.

The accessory structures that will be moved to the additional property are the guest and staff parking lot, wine caves, laundry and house-keeping facilities, offices, and storage facilities among others.

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PHOTO BY CLARK JAMES MISHLER

At last, the rain

Senior recreation aide Diana Pimenteo walks with Calistoga Boys & Girls Club members Lizbeth, Juan, Saloman and Oscar on Wednesday, Nov. 21 – the first rainy day of the season – to deliver brownies they made to residents of the Cedars Care Home. Between Nov. 21 and Wednesday afternoon of this week, Calistoga had received 2.55 inches of rain, though a late night storm was expected to increase that total.

Employee groups in contract negotiations

By Kim Beltran

Tribune Editor

Calistoga's employee groups are in the midst of contract negotiations that representatives are calling productive and amicable.

Both city manager Dylan Feik, representing Calistoga, and Richard Reed, representing the employee groups, said they are optimistic that they can come to terms by the end of the year when contracts for police, fire and other city workers expire.

"I can't go into details about the negotiations but we're making progress," said Reed, who has represented Calistoga employee groups for the past "five city managers."

"Things are on a friendly, reasonable path," he said.

Members of the employee groups – Calistoga Professional Firefighters Association, Calistoga Police Officers Association, Calistoga Public

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Election results final: newcomer Williams to join Kraus on council

By Kim Beltran

Tribune Editor

Napa County Registrar of Voters John Tuteur said Wednesday that he was set to post the final – but still unofficial – Nov. 6 Election results that show Donald Williams and Gary Kraus as winners in the race for Calistoga City Council.

In an email to the Tribune and other media outlets Wednesday afternoon, Tuteur said his staff had counted all ballots from the first, second, third and fourth county districts but were finishing up ballot counts for the cities of Napa and American Canyon.

"The results have not changed in the Saint Helena Mayor race with Geoff Ellsworth leading Alan Galbraith or in the

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PHOTO BY CLARK JAMES MISHLER

Old and young alike gather by the thousands each year to watch Calistoga's Lighted Tractor Parade.

It's Tractor Parade weekend!

Tribune Staff

Calistoga kicks off the holidays with a bang this weekend, beginning tonight with Holiday Village festivities downtown, a tree lighting ceremony at 5:30 p.m. and Holly Trolley rides through the decorated neigh-

borhoods. Then tomorrow beginning at 9 a.m., the 49th annual Christmas Faire will take place at the Napa County Fairgrounds, all leading up to the 23rd annual Lighted Tractor

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Longtime Calistogans move only to go through fire nightmare again

By Claudia Aceves

Tribune Reporter

When longtime residents Jack and Linda Faunce left Calistoga in February of this year, they took with them the memory of having lived through the Tubbs Fire, at the time, the state's most destructive wildfire.

On Nov. 8, a new memory was seared into the Faunces' consciousness when they were forced to flee their new hometown of Magalia by what would become an even more destructive and more deadly blaze – the Camp Fire.

"It was a weird coincidence," said Linda of witnessing two of the state's most destructive fires just over a year apart. "We watched it happen. It had nothing but fuel, it was moving so fast."

After 47 and a half years living

in Calistoga, the couple relocated to Butte County, moving into Jack's late parents' home in Magalia, about six miles north of the town of Paradise.

On the morning of Nov. 8, Linda's two grandchildren, a fourth- and a fifth-grader who usually ride their bikes to school – asked their grandmother to drive them instead because the gusting winds were strong and frightening, she said.

When they reached the school, they saw a huge cloud over the hill behind it but didn't know what it was.

"It was like an atomic bomb," Linda said. "An explosion with, at the very top, the morning sun shining through a lovely cumulus cloud."

Still unaware of the quick moving flames that had begun engulfing Paradise, Linda Faunce

dropped the children off at school and went back home. Once there, however, she began receiving calls from friends who told her Paradise was on fire and from school officials who told her students were being evacuated.

Linda quickly returned to the school just in time to get her grandkids off one of the busses that were transporting students to Chico. Linda said the busses, followed by some teachers driving their own vehicles, exited via Skyway – considered the "gateway" to Paradise and many other Butte County communities.

"We lucked out," Linda Faunce said. "There was fire on both sides of them. I'm sure those kids are traumatized and will probably never forget this."

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