

# Calistoga Tribune

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SCARY NEWS

It's official! Halloween Parade, costume contest is a go

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## Homecoming makes triumphant return

Calistoga High School Homecoming King Christian Caldera and Queen Catalina Garcia smile for photographs during half-time of the school's football game on Oct. 8. Below, the Calistoga High School band plays a song as it marches in the school's Homecoming parade down Lincoln Avenue last Friday afternoon. For more photos of the day's events, see Page 6. Also see Sports Pages 11 and 12.

PHOTOS BY  
CLARK JAMES MISHLER



## As drought lingers council eyes city's high water users

By Kim Beltran

Tribune Editor

With the entire state of California mired in a severe drought – 45 percent of it facing “exceptional drought” conditions – the city of Calistoga is moving forward with conservation efforts that could include calling out those residents and businesses that continue to overuse the finite resource.

City Councilman Gary Kraus at a meeting on Oct. 5 suggested that staff identify those customers who continue to use large amounts of water and reach out to them with ideas on how to cut back.

Recently-hired water technician Mitchell Egert, whose job it is to monitor water use and promote conservation, said at the meeting that

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## Police lieutenant job on council's agenda

By Kim Beltran

Tribune Editor

Calistoga's City Council on Tuesday will take action to add a lieutenant position to the Police Department roster to provide a needed layer of management oversight.

In addition to that request, the council will also consider requests by Interim City Manager Brad Kilger to contract for additional building and planning services, and to assess the organizational structure of the city's internal support services and potential need for more staffing.

During its budget sessions earlier this year, the council chose to fund several new public

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## Laundromat to reopen next month

■ Danny Merchant, whose family owns the property, said he has contracted with a company that owns 17 laundry facilities to operate the one in Calistoga

By Pat Hampton

Tribune Publisher

No one seems to know how long it's been there, sitting at the back of the parking lot on Lincoln Avenue, but for years the laundromat has cleaned and dried thousands of loads of clothing, rugs, curtains and bedding until a dryer fire closed it down on Sept. 29.

The business is owned by Judith Neid, a resident of La Quinta, California but the building is part of the Merchant family's glider port property, according to Danny Merchant. According to Merchant, Neid was considering shutting down the business, especially with another water rate increase coming in 2022.

“If you raise the costs of washing and drying, people will go somewhere else,” Merchant said. “They'll take the laundry with them when they go to Napa to grocery shop or go to work. With another rate increase coming next year, I don't know if it's a sus-



PHOTO BY PAT HAMPTON

The Calistoga Laundromat remains closed since sustaining damage in a Sept. 29 fire.

tainable business or not.”

When the Planning Commission approved the Merchant family's Veranda Hotel project late last year – a plan that calls for tearing down the laundromat building – planners required the Merchants to locate a laundromat someplace else in town before an occupancy permit would be issued for their new hotel.

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## Glass shop opens; new pasta restaurant going in the space behind it

By Kim Beltran

Tribune Editor

Fine arts glass makers Mark and Michiko Weiner have opened the doors to their Calistoga retail store, Mark+Michiko.

They had hoped to open their glass-blowing studio in the back of the building behind the retail shop, located at 1400 Lincoln Ave., but instead plan to open it later this year at 504 Washington St. – the former home of Glenn Pope Woodworking.

Instead of a working art

studio, the back of the building – address 1120 Washington St. – is being remodeled to house Mangia Mi West, an Italian food restaurant that will feature freshly made pastas, pizza and other fare sourced locally, according to chef Rebecca White, who owns a sister restaurant in Rincon, Puerto Rico.

Mangia Mi West will also feature a full bar and an open kitchen where diners can watch pasta being made from

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