

# Calistoga Tribune

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\$1

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HOMEcomings TONIGHT

Wildcat football team hosts  
Roseland University Prep at 7 p.m.

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## COVID tests, protocols add to CJUSD staff workload

By Kim Beltran

Tribune Editor

Teaching students during a global health pandemic continues to challenge school district administrators and staff up and down the state, and Calistoga Joint Unified School District is no exception.

The added burden of weekly COVID-19 testing – with its required tracking, documentation and notification protocols – combined with staffing shortages is taxing an already small crew, Calistoga district officials said on Monday.

With a state mandate on the horizon that all students age 12 and older must be vaccinated, trustees approved superintendent Erin Smith Hagberg's decision to spend \$188,242 in federal emergency relief funds on added custodial support as well as a full-time district health services position. The new health services employee would assist a part-time consulting nurse that is only in the district two days a week.

"COVID-19 has significantly increased the demands for additional health services," Smith Hagberg told trustees at their monthly meeting Monday night. "And it appears it's not going to lessen anytime in the near future because we have the COVID-19 vaccine mandate coming."

Calistoga Elementary School has been conducting COVID-19 pooled testing for the past four weeks with approximately 320 students (73% of the school's population) participating in the program, Smith Hagberg reported. Parent permission is required for students to be included in the testing.

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## FIRING UP THE HOMECOMING SPIRIT



PHOTO BY CLARK JAMES MISHLER

*Arisbeth Jacinto (right) celebrates her 17th birthday with junior classmates Valerin Queipo and Grace Galindo, at Calistoga High School's Homecoming bonfire and pep rally Wednesday evening. Today, students will hold a Homecoming parade beginning at the school at 2:30 p.m. followed by boys and girls soccer games at Logvy Park at 3:15 and 5 p.m., and then the football game at 7 p.m. at the high school field.*

## Planning Commission taking up gas station ban

The Calistoga Planning Commission on Wednesday is scheduled to consider a zoning ordinance amendment to the Calistoga Municipal Code that would prohibit new gas stations in all zoning districts and tighten up regulations around requests for changes to existing gas station businesses.

The amendment was a recommendation of Calistoga's Green Committee, which works to find ways to reduce the city's carbon

emissions.

On Wednesday, the Planning Commission will also hold a public hearing to address code violations at 345 Silverado Trail, an estate residence. The project consists of relocating an existing, unpermitted metal barn behind the 20-foot side yard setback, reviewing the design of an existing entrance gate and proposed shade covers for access road lighting, reviewing an existing unpermitted duck and aviary enclo-

tures for non-native bird species in connection with an issued noise nuisance notice of violation; review the abandonment of existing unpermitted garage pads within a potentially sensitive area of the property and relocating the footprint behind the existing main garage; helicopter sculpture, and consider an Erosion Control Plan for trees removed for defensible space be required as a condition of approval prior to obtaining building permits.

## Council holds off on \$30,000 economic study

■ Accepts consultant's salary/compensation report for contract negotiations

By Kim Beltran

Tribune Editor

The Calistoga City Council on Tuesday decided not to move forward with a \$30,000 economic diversification study, choosing instead to first revisit a Downtown Revitalization report submitted in March 2020 by the Chamber of Commerce.

The council also accepted results of an updated salary and compensation study that serves as a guide for contract negotiations with its employee groups.

The council was embarking upon its annual budgeting process in the spring of 2020 when COVID-19 changed the world and the way it does business. At that time, member Donald Williams was adamant that the city look into diversifying its economy given that its main source of revenue – tourism – had dropped off, leaving Calistoga's financial future in the lurch. The council agreed to budget \$30,000 for an economic diversification assessment to review what business types "would be realistic targets for locating and diversifying Calistoga's economic base," according to a staff report from Interim City Manager Brad Kilgore.

But after receiving a letter from Calistoga Chamber of Commerce executive director Bruce Kyse and board chair Sandy Tucker reminding it about two already-completed retail assessments, the council decided to hold off on paying for a third study.

"Unfortunately, that (Downtown Revitalization assess-

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## Charismatic owner of Picayune celebrates 10 year anniversary

By Pat Hampton

Tribune Publisher

When COVID-19 kept her close family members in France from traveling to the U.S. to help her celebrate the 10th anniversary of Picayune Cellars last week, Claire Weinkauff hosted the staff and customers who have become her American family in the past decade and thanked them for their support.

"I love and collect all those sayings from different countries," she said, and explained in her thank-you speech to the crowd that her favorite American ones are 'when life gives you lemons, make lemonade' and 'it takes a village.'

"For me, 'it takes a village' means so much on two levels. It really does take a village and my village is all those people and ambassadors who have become friends over the years," she said. "And the other village is here. You should have seen how many Calistogans were there, it was beautiful. They've supported me through fires and covid." And when there was no electricity they came into the store and shopped by the flashlight on their phones, she said. "I wanted to thank all those people who supported me."

Weinkauff was invited to come to

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*Winemaker Claire Weinkauff samples one of her Picayune wines in a Calistoga vineyard recently. Weinkauff this week celebrated her 10th year of being in business with fun party on Bennett Lane.*

PHOTO BY  
CLARK JAMES MISHLER