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\$1

◀ RAILROAD PARK

NSGW construct monument to Napa Valley Electric Railroad
Below

▶ \$7.5M FOR JOURNALISM
University of Illinois beneficiary of Frank Family philanthropy

▶ SMOKE, ASH & PLANTS
Overall, smoke and ash are detrimental but also have benefits

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Generators still powering town

By Kim Beltran

Tribune Editor

PG&E said Wednesday that its crews would be out today inspecting its de-energized electrical transmission lines with the goal of restoring power to some 53,000 customers no later than 10 p.m. tonight.

Today's activities mark the end of a Public Safety Power Shutdown initiated Wednesday evening by the utility company

due to weather conditions that create a high risk of wildfire.

In Napa County, 9,221 customers were expected to be impacted by the PSPS. That number included 2,277 customers in the city of Calistoga, PG&E spokeswoman Deanna Contreras said Wednesday.

However, 1,500 of those Calistoga customers east of the Napa River would have power supplied by the PG&E micro-grid (another bank of genera-

tors) installed this year on lower Washington Street. These customers were not expected to lose power due to the PSPS as the micro-grid was already running when it was initiated.

The remaining 777 Calistoga city customers located west of the Napa River along Foothill Boulevard and Highway 128 were expected to lose power because the lines that transmit

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Move to less COVID restrictions possible

By Kim Beltran

Tribune Editor

By the time the Calistoga City Council meets this Tuesday night, it's possible that Napa County could be moving to less restrictive operations under the state's COVID-19 rules.

In a written report he will summarize at the meeting, city manager Mike Kirn said the county would

receive word from the state on Tuesday as to whether it had met benchmarks for relaxing some restrictions.

"Napa County remains in the Red Tier but is showing data metrics that indicate possible movement to the less restrictive Orange Tier," Kirn wrote in his report, attached to this week's City Council

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Market vendor loses farm in fire, vows to rebuild, return

By Pat Hampton

Tribune Publisher

There will be a large, missing display of fresh farm produce at Saturday's weekly Calistoga Farmers Market following the destruction of Sonoma County's Triple T Farm & Ranch in the Glass Fire but founder Larry Tristano says his family will rebuild and return the farm to its former bounty.

Tristano, whose family farm stand has been a part of the local market since 2001, said most of his 13-acre farm was lost, including tools, barns, livestock and supplies. Produce in the fields was mostly spared although an orchard burned in the blaze.

A GoFundMe fundraiser set up by friends has already raised more than the \$25,000 goal, which will go to the farm's employees to sustain them while the farm is rebuilt.

"I am determined to keep Triple T Farm's workers employed," Tristano said in a letter to supporters. "But the enormity of rebuilding is truly a daunting task."

Tristano said he hoped to be back in Calistoga at the Saturday market within a month.

"As soon as we get vehicles, we'll be back," he said. "We'll sell whatever we have growing at the time." Before the Glass Fire, Tristano's family was selling produce and starter plants at seven different farmers markets. The schedule has been trimmed down to the Marin Farmers Market on Thursdays and Sundays.

"No one was hurt. That's the good news, but we lost everything on the farm," Tristano told the Tribune this week. "But we're fighters, we'll be back."

Market manager Karen Verzosa said two other vendors were impacted by the fire. Nancy Batt,

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PHOTOS BY CLARK JAMES MISHLER



Local contractor Dan Bazzoli and his son, Danny, set historic railroad tracks in a mini-park and monument on Washington Street commemorating the Napa Valley Electric Railroad that ran from Vallejo to Calistoga starting in 1912. The project, conceived and shepherded by the local Native Sons and Native Daughters of the Golden West, is located on Washington Street across from the Calistoga Fire Department and next to WestAmerica Bank.

Native Sons plan dedication for Railroad Park

By Kim Beltran

Tribune Editor

The local chapter of the Native Sons of the Golden West recently completed construction of a mini railroad park on Washington Street, a memorial to the Napa Valley Electric Railroad which ran from Vallejo to Calistoga.

The group is holding a public dedication ceremony on Saturday, Nov. 14, at 11:30 a.m. The Grand Officers of the NSGW will be conducting the event as they do at all historical dedications throughout the state, said Dick Kyukendall, a member of the Calistoga chapter of the organization.

The Calistoga portion of the Napa Valley Electric Railroad was completed in September of

1912, he said. The metal tracks remained imbedded in Washington Street after the railroad discontinued use in 1937 until they were removed by the city in 2017 for street reconstruction.

The tracks, badly bent during removal, were stored by the city with the promise from the organization to create a monument between the street and sidewalk next to WestAmerica Bank. Straight sections of the rails were installed along the perimeter of the tiny park. A dedication plaque was installed on a rock base built by local contractor Dan Bazzoli. An informational sign and two benches purchased by the city complete the park.

Total cost of the project was unknown at press time on Wednesday but the city had previously donated \$10,000 toward the project.

Work on new footbridge at Pioneer Park is underway

By Kim Beltran

Tribune Editor

Construction began Monday on installation of a new footbridge that will allow pedestrians to cross the Napa River between Pioneer Park on Cedar Street and the Calistoga Community Center on Washington Street.

The Calistoga City Council in August awarded Gordon N. Ball, Inc. of Alamo an \$849,970 construction contract that will see the bridge installed and the existing concrete walkway across the water removed.

The purpose of the Pioneer Park Pedestrian Bridge Project, as it is called, "is to improve conditions for fish habitat and provide a safe, all-season, accessible pedestrian crossing linking Pioneer Park with the Calistoga Community Center and the downtown area," Public Works director and city engineer Derek Rayner told the Council in August. "The project will provide enhanced walkable pathways for the community and benefit fish habitat."

The project is scheduled to be completed in two phases: Installation of the pedestrian bridge, happening now, and the second phase, removal of the concrete in-channel crossing, starting sometime in June of next year, pending results of nesting bird survey results. Removal of the concrete barrier as well as seeding and installation of erosion control measures must be complete by Oct. 15, 2021. Planting and installation of a temporary irrigation system must be finished by Oct. 30, 2021.

Rayner said the total project cost, including contingency fees, is just over \$1 million.

The city is using \$690,000 in grant funds and impact fees for the project, plus an additional \$332,300 from Public Works' Pavement Maintenance fund.

"Even with the additional budget request," Rayner said, "the city is completing the construction of this project for 0.33 cents on the dollar, at a 67% savings."