

- GOOD CITIZENS**
 Chamber honors businesses, residents who contribute
- CANDIDATE FORUM**
 Contenders for Calistoga City Council hosted online Sept. 24
- MORE LETTERS**
 Elections, PG&E, fundraisers all topics of discussion this week



Downtown parklets delayed for public input

By Kim Beltran
Tribune Editor

The city’s plan to install four temporary “parklets” along Lincoln Avenue for additional restaurant seating will be delayed for another two weeks to allow for public comment on the plan.

Councilman Donald Williams requested during Tuesday night’s meeting that the proposal be brought before the council as an agenda item so that members of the public could weigh in if they wanted to.

Despite his own reluctance to delay the project, and over the objections of two other council members, mayor Chris Canning granted Williams’ request. The project will be on the council’s Oct. 6 agenda.

The city has had on its books for several years plans to install throughout the downtown corridor several “parklets,” mini parks with benches, blooms and bike racks tucked into corners and

See **PARKLETS** Page 3

South Oak Street is the spot for bike/pedestrian bridge to Logvy

■ Work to begin Monday on installation of Pioneer Park span

By Kim Beltran
Tribune Editor

The city will move forward with plans to install a pedestrian bridge over the Napa River between Logvy Park and S. Oak St.

A consultant’s report evaluating the best location for providing access between the neighborhoods west of the Napa River and the

park, schools and facilities to the east was the path where S. Oak St. ends and curves to the left as School Street.

Meanwhile, city officials said another pedestrian bridge project – this one over the river between Pioneer Park and the back of the

See **BRIDGES** Page 8

Chamber recognizes top citizens

■ New award honors service during exceptional circumstances

By Pat Hampton
Tribune Publisher

Dozens of citizens were recognized for their humanitarian efforts during the pandemic by the Calistoga Chamber of Commerce during its annual Community Awards recognition event, held virtually this year.

Bruce Kyse, chamber executive director, announced the winners with a video on the chamber website that shared photos of the honorees and accolades for their service to the community, which have been “integral in assisting Calistogans during these uncertain times,” Kyse stated.

Nominations were submitted by the public for several categories before winners were selected by judges Eden Umble, chamber board president, and Gianni Busato, board member, as well as community members Dianne Barrett and Carol Bush.

The judges expanded this year’s categories to include Spirit of Calistoga Awards in recognition of service during exceptional circumstances. The award was given to employees of three different entities that judges felt have gone above and beyond to assist the community during the pandemic.

“Cal Mart employees have been on the front lines since the begin-



Top to bottom, teams from Cal Mart, Silverado Ace Hardware and the Calistoga Post Office were recognized for their above-and-beyond service to Calistogans during the coronavirus pandemic.

ning of the pandemic. They have put their health and safety at risk working long hours, while maintaining professionalism and friendliness,” Kyse said while narrating the video. “The delivery service and special shopping hours for se-

niors have been a lifesaver for our senior population.”

Providing uninterrupted service to the community despite many obstacles, the team at the Calistoga Post Office were also honored with the “Spirit” award as were the



John and Louise Strasser



Steve Patel

Charlotte Williams

employees at Silverado Ace Hardware, who “have been on the front lines, providing much needed supplies and services to the citizens of Calistoga,” the executive director said.

Food banks and social service networks have seen a dramatic rise in the number of people needing help. “Many of these people have never needed to avail themselves of food assistance before the pandemic,” Kyse shared. The Nonprofit Organization of the Year award for

See **AWARDS** Page 8

Consultant says city should keep cops, up budget

By Kim Beltran
Tribune Editor

Calistoga should retain its own police force, rather than contracting with the Napa County Sheriff’s Office for services or merging with St. Helena PD into an Up-valley force, a consultant told the City Council on Tuesday.

Having analyzed the options on a variety of criteria and compiled it into a report, Matrix Consulting Group’s Byron Pipkin recommended that the city maintain its own police force but increase the department’s annual budget from between \$270,000 and \$482,000.

“My initial bias for any small town, and coming into Calistoga, is that...a city under 30,000 people, I would say, most of the time or almost always is probably going to be better off contracting with a larger organization for several reasons,” said Pipkin. “Based on experience and working with other

See **POLICE** Page 5

Halloween, Homecoming parades are cancelled

City manager Mike Kim announced during Tuesday’s City Council meeting that “out of an abundance of caution” both the Halloween parade and the Calistoga High School Homecoming parade have been cancelled this year due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Kirn said that several groups, including the city and the Lion’s Club are working to create a special event for local children that will likely involve a drive-through ‘Trick or Treating’ event.

Details will be forthcoming, Kirn said.

Ballots for 82,000 registered voters going out Oct. 5

By Pat Hampton
Tribune Publisher

Napa County elections officer John Tuteur says his office is confident and prepared to distribute, collect, count and record the vote-by-mail ballots being sent to the county’s 82,000 registered voters the week of Oct. 5.

What his office can’t predict is how many ballots will be returned or when they’ll be returned.

Tuteur said his team does not track ballot returns by week, but with over 23 years of ex-

perience “my seat-of-the-pants [guess] says that our heaviest return is usually the third week after ballots go out.

“The trend has been for voters to wait longer and longer to mail and return their ballots,” he told the Tribune. With this national election appearing more contentious than most, indications are that voters may move more quickly in sending ballots back.

“We already have eight ballots back from the 500 overseas and military ballots that we sent on Sept. 12,” Tuteur said. “If that is the beginning of a trend, I welcome it. We are getting calls

daily asking, ‘Where is my ballot? I want to vote now!’”

There are three ways Calistogans can return a completed ballot: By U.S. mail, which usually takes one or two days if mailed locally; by dropping it in the county’s secure ballot drop box, which will be available Tuesday, Oct. 6, on Fair Way adjacent to Cal Mart grocery, or at the drive-through ballot center at the Community Center, 1307 Washington St., which will be open Saturday, Oct. 31, through Election Day

See **VOTING** Page 3