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County planners recently approved new Beautiful Day Winery project
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Digging up history on Washington St.



HISTORICAL PHOTO BY IC ADAMS

In this Sept. 2, 1912 photograph taken by IC Adams, Calistoga Mayor John Rutherford drives the final stake securing the Washington Street rails for the electric railroad operated by the San Francisco, Napa and Calistoga Railroad.

■ Rail tracks come out as street repair progresses quickly

By Pat Hampton
Tribune Publishing

When Calistoga Mayor John Rutherford drove the final spike into the redwood tie at the end of the line for a new electric rail line on Sept. 2, 1912, he opened a page in Calistoga's history book.

Mayor Chris Canning closed that chapter on Tuesday, 105 years later, when he held one of the many metal spikes pulled from the now-disintegrated ties unearthed as construction crews dug out the metal tracks in order to repair lower Washington Street.

Rutherford's 1912 celebration of the arrival of the San Francisco, Napa & Calistoga Railway Com-



PHOTO BY PAT HAMPTON

Mayor Chris Canning, center wearing pink shirt, holds one of the spikes removed on Tuesday by construction workers, who used a backhoe to lift the metal train tracks out of the concrete on Washington Street.

pany included a large throng of local citizens awaiting the arrival of two trains, one a two-car train that carried 185 guests; the second a three-car train filled with 280 riders.

A band on board disembarked and the party began – drink, music, dancing and food

– a typical Calistoga celebration. Politicians from all over the valley were in attendance. “The remarks completed and the golden spike officially hammered into the last tie, a tasty luncheon was

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City, Berry Street property owners reach settlements

■ Agreement means bridge replacement can begin on schedule

By Kim Beltran
Tribune Editor

The city has reached agreement with two families for the temporary use of portions of their properties during replacement of the Berry Street bridge.

The settlements with Scott and Linda LeStrange and George and Kathleen Meyer mean the bridge replacement project, whose timing is critical, can start on time.

“The City is pleased to announce that we have reached settlement with both parties on just compensation, thereby avoiding protracted litigation and associated financial exposure, and [allowing] the City

to obtain timely possession of the easements,” Mike Kirn, the city's director of Public Works, wrote in a press release issued Wednesday.

Under terms of the agreements, the city will pay the Meyers \$2,500 for the use of approximately 50 square-feet of their property at 1341 Berry St. for a temporary construction easement.

The LeStranges will receive \$106,000 for the temporary use of 1,750 square-feet of their property at 1328/1332 Berry Street.

Initially, the city had offered \$19,000 but the property owners rejected that amount, saying it wouldn't come close to covering their time and costs of replacing significant landscaping and repairing any damage that might occur

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Selling Green Church an option but not first

■ Members meet on future of iconic building

By Claudia Aceves
Tribune Editor

Members of the Community Presbyterian Church, who met recently to discuss the fate of the iconic building, would consider selling it but only as a last resort.

Other options include renovating the “Green Church” to its original condition or demolishing the structure and rebuilding a new one.

“Selling was not well received, but not eliminated,” said the Rev. David Moon-Wainwright, pastor of the 145-year old church. “We

could get into a situation where we have no choice, but we are not going to actively pursue it.”

The church has been shuttered since March, when city officials red-tagged the building due to a mold problem caused by a major water leak last November and poor maintenance over time.

The water leak flooded the basement and destroyed the wood floor of the church's social hall. Inspection of the building also found asbestos downstairs, crumbling ceilings in some rooms and mold from years of water damage.

“They didn't want to do this, it broke their hearts,” Moon-Wain-

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County planners OK ‘Beautiful Day’ winery just outside city

■ Vines, not oak trees, will be removed for 30,000-gallon winery

By Kim Beltran
Tribune Editor

The Napa County Planning Commission last week approved a use permit for a new 30,000-gallon-a-year winery that will be

built less than a quarter-mile south of Calistoga's city boundary on Highway 29.

The Beautiful Day Winery at 4500 St. Helena Highway North will consist of a 17,972 square-foot production facility, a 3,271 square-foot hospitality building, and a 3,228 square-foot covered crush pad, according to planning documents which also list Richard Hill as the property owner and Remi Cohen, vice president and

general manager of Lede Family Wines, as a contact for the applicant, Beautiful Day, LLC.

Cohen confirmed via email that the new winery will be part of the Lede Family Wines portfolio, which includes Cliff Lede Vineyards in the Stags Leap District of Napa Valley and FEL Wines in the Anderson Valley.

Beautiful Day, LLC was represented at the Planning Commission meeting by Napa project

consultant George Monteverdi, who told planners that the original design for Beautiful Day had the winery set among a two-acre stand of oak trees on the 28.8-acre parcel. That plan, however, would've required removal of half of the 36 mature valley oak trees – a move that wouldn't have complied with county policies on avoiding oak removal and could have meant bringing the project before commissioners without a planning staff

recommendation for approval.

The applicants revised their proposal, opting instead to remove 1.5 to 2 acres of the existing 17-acre vineyard to make room for the winery, said Monteverdi.

“No one wants to take out vines, but if one can do so to preserve oaks, that makes sense here,” Commissioner Anne Cottrell said.

The use permit calls for tours

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