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Former Calistoga mayor Jack Gingles dies in Lake County

By Kim Beltran
Tribune Editor

Jack Gingles, a longtime Calistoga resident and former mayor, passed away at his home in Clear Lake Tuesday following a lengthy illness. He was 79.

Gingles first moved to Calistoga in 1974 to help run a board and care home that his parents, Grace and Edgar Gingles, had established here

in the 1960s.

"We were saddened to learn of the passing of former mayor Jack Gingles," mayor Chris Canning said in a statement issued Tuesday. "Jack served our community well for decades. Our thoughts are with his family at this time. In honor of and out of respect for Mayor Gingles the City

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Jack Gingles, who served as mayor of Calistoga from 2006 to 2012, passed away Tuesday at his home in Clearlake.

City Council, supervisors to consider fairgrounds sales agreement Tuesday

By Kim Beltran
Tribune Editor

Both the Calistoga City Council and the Napa County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday will consider signing a purchase and sale agreement that will transfer ownership of half the county fairgrounds property to the city for a total of \$7,717,500.

The signing of the sales agreement and associated documents by both entities sets in motion a 120-day 'due diligence' period of review. If all goes well, the sale is expected to close around

Feb. 15, 2020, according to a letter in the Board of Supervisors Aug. 20 agenda packet from county director of Public Works Steven Lederer.

"Sale of this County surplus property would assist in the financing plan for the replacement of the jail facility," Lederer wrote in explaining the fiscal impact to the county. If the sale agreement is not approved by supervisors, he said, then "the county will not generate revenue from the sale of the Fairgrounds, and will continue expending

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Don Williams hit with bldg. code, use permit violations

By Pat Hampton
Tribune Publisher

City officials on Tuesday posted a red "Stop Work" order on a warehouse at 515 Washington St. that immediately shut down a small furniture manufacturing business.

Owned by Calistoga City Councilman Don Williams, the building's use was found to be out of compliance with current zoning and building codes, said building official Brad Cannon, who along with Fire Chief Steve Campbell, red tagged the property following a citizen complaint.

The warehouse was built in 1991 by Williams to store flooring materials for his business, Donald Williams Hardwood Floors, which operated there until four years ago when he closed his shop.

The occupant, Paul Block, owner of Wine Barrel Furniture, was forced to stop working until city staff and

the property owner discuss the violations and come to a resolution, Cannon said. An on-site worker said the furniture maker had been in the building for about a month.

This isn't the first time Williams has been cited by the city for violations at the property. Williams was notified in January that he was in violation of city code for allowing a person to live in an RV on the property, renting part of the warehouse as a dwelling without a business license, non-permitted construction in the building and unsafe conditions.

Williams had allegedly collected rent for four years from electrical contractor Dan Williams (no relation) who transformed the warehouse into a living space, according to a report submitted by then-Code Enforcement Officer Kellie Bird.

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PHOTO BY PAT HAMPTON

This warehouse, owned by Donald Williams and formerly site of his wood flooring business that he closed four years ago, was red-tagged by city officials on Tuesday for unsafe conditions and violation of a use permit originally issued for Williams' wood floor business in 1990.

Planners OK resort expansion requests

■ **Commission on Aug. 28 will consider resort general store, new location for tree business**

By Pat Hampton
Tribune Publisher

Renovation and expansion plans for two local resorts were approved by the Calistoga Planning Commission on Wednesday, reported Lynn Goldberg, city Planning and Building department director.

Goldberg said commissioners approved both projects with comments only directed to a proposed bar and food menu at Dr. Wilkinson's resort, recently purchased and being remodeled by San Francisco-based Chartres Lodging Group.

Now that design review has been completed, the owners can begin submitting paperwork for use permits, building permits and payments for impact fees. Final plans will

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Merchant family hotel plan submitted to city as extension of Indian Springs resort

By Pat Hampton
Tribune Publisher

A proposed expansion of the Indian Springs Calistoga resort that would add 96 rooms, a new restaurant, pools and retail spaces is circulating among city departments for review.

Planning director Lynn Goldberg said the project, submitted July 25, would occupy the former glider port property between the Calistoga Depot and Indian Springs, which would be rezoned Community Commercial.

Property owner John Merchant recently said the project was a smaller version of the Veranda Hotel development his family put forward in 2011 and again two years ago that included the construction of a three-story building with up to

See **VERANDA** on page 6



This artists rendering of the Merchant family's latest resort proposal is a scaled down version of the Veranda Resort project the family first submitted in 2011 and again two years ago. The Merchants submitted a new plan in July that calls the project an extension of its Indian Springs resort. It has been reduced from three to two stories, and adds 96 new rooms rather than the originally proposed 176.