



Inoculation of seniors, ag workers begins

St. Helena Hospital Foundation handles launch of Phase 1B COVID vaccinations

By Kim Beltran
Tribune Editor

Napa County moved this week into the second phase of a plan to inoculate its residents against COVID-19, approving 500 doses of the new Moderna vaccine for seniors and those who work in the agriculture/wine industry.

Administration of the unexpected vaccine shipment began Tuesday at Napa Valley College's Upvalley campus in St. Helena, with the city's Vineyard Valley Mobilehome Park residents age 75 and over first in line.

"It's kind of the 'soft launch' of getting the vaccine to the broader community," said Glen Newhart, president of the St. Helena Hospital Foundation, which organized and funded this week's Phase 1B clinic.

Napa County's plan for administering the vaccine to all sectors of the community includes three phases. However, Phase 1 has three sub-phases – 1A, 1B and 1C – and each subphase has different tiers. Vaccination of people in Phase 1A Tier 1 (employees of acute care, psychiatric and correctional facility hospitals, staff and residents of skilled nursing or assisted living facilities, paramedics and EMTs) began Dec. 20. As more vaccine doses are received, the county has moved through Phase 1A's Tiers 2 and 3, inoculating home healthcare and community health workers, primary and urgent care clinic employees, laboratory workers, dental clinic staff and pharmacy staff not included in Tiers 1 and 2.

See [VACCINE](#) page 8



PHOTO BY KIM BELTRAN

Ninety-five year-old Jeri Westernoff, seated at left, waits with her daughter, Calistoga resident Yvette Vloeberghs, 67, as volunteer nurse Ramona Asmus prepares to give her the first dose of the Moderna coronavirus vaccine Tuesday morning at the Napa Valley College Upper Valley Center in St. Helena. To Asmus' right is 78-year-old Nancy Batt of St. Helena, a Vineyard Valley Mobile Home Park resident who was first in line Tuesday morning to be vaccinated. She then offered her services as a volunteer for organizer St. Helena Hospital Foundation.

Wilkinson mural finally approved despite debate

By Pat Hampton
Tribune Publisher

Art proved, once again, to be in the eye of the beholder as the Calistoga Planning Commission, at its fourth meeting on the issue, approved the design of an 80-foot-long mural to be painted on the side of Dr. Wilkinson's Backyard Resort & Mineral Springs.

Wednesday's public hearing drew more than 80 comments sent by text or email and offered via three speakers who offered opinions on what art is and what it is not.

Calistoga artist Karen Lynn Ingalls, in an emotional statement read during the virtual meeting, said that basing the approval process of an art project on design-by-committee could set a bad precedent.

See [MURAL](#) Page 3

Stay-at-home order continues

By Kim Beltran
Tribune Editor

With COVID-19 cases surging and hospital capacity in the Bay Area nearly tapped out, a regional stay-at-home order that began on Dec. 17 has been extended.

The order will remain in effect until the region's Intensive Care Unit capacity projected out four weeks is equal or greater than 15 percent, Napa County Health Officer Dr. Karen Relucio announced late last week. The ICU capacity will be assessed on a weekly basis, she said.

"We are just now beginning to see the effects of December holiday gatherings and travel," Relucio said in a statement issued Jan. 9. "It bears repeating that ICU capacity is not only critical for COVID-19 patients, it can also mean the difference between life and death for community members suffering from

See [ORDER](#) Page 3

PG&E to test wildfire mitigation technology installed in Calistoga lines

Utility company says network of weather stations, cameras reduced size of 2020 PSPS

By Kim Beltran
Tribune Editor

Calistoga is the first city in North America to have new technology aimed at mitigating wildfire risk installed on its power distribution lines as part of a pilot program launched recently by PG&E.

The utility giant also announced this week that an expanded network of weather stations and

high-definition fire-watch cameras helped reduce the size of each of the company's Public Safety Power Shutoff events in 2020 by 55 percent, on average, company spokesperson Deanna Contreras said in a press release issued this week.

"As a part of PG&E's comprehensive efforts to address the growing threat of extreme weather and wildfires across PG&E's service area – including installing

stronger poles and power lines and conducting enhanced vegetation management – we're also testing and deploying new technologies to help mitigate wildfire risk and support operational needs," Contreras said in an email explaining a brief electric service interruption to 3,700 customers in Calistoga on Jan. 6.

"Unfortunately, after crews completed the installation of the new equipment Wednesday morning, outages occurred when plac-

See [PG&E](#) Page 8



SUBMITTED PHOTO COURTESY OF PG&E

One of some 340 high-definition fire-watch cameras in PG&E's arsenal of wildfire detection and mitigation technology.