

Calistoga Tribune

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PHOTOS BY CLARK JAMES MISHLER

Top: This decorated 1976 Peterbuilt truck and trailer was the Berryessa 4-H Club's Lighted Tractor Parade entry.

Above: Two young girls pose for a photo at the Calistoga Holiday Village and

Crowds flock to fun faire, parade

By Claudia Aceves

Tribune Reporter

On Monday, just two days after what many believe was the biggest and brightest Lighted Tractor Parade yet, the Calistoga Chamber of Commerce got a phone call asking if it was too early to enter next year's event.

Unfortunately, the entry period for next year's parade doesn't open until October but the enthusiasm behind the call was reflective of the overall reaction to this year's procession.

"The creativity and floats were more than I expected," said Calistoga Welcome Center adminis-

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Checker's restaurant is closing

■ Tomorrow is final day for popular local eatery; new owners said to be planning pizza-focused menu

By Claudia Aceves

Tribune Reporter

The last of four downtown restaurants co-owned by Ron Goldin and Mark Young will officially close its doors tomorrow after 32 years of service in Calistoga.

Goldin announced Monday that Checkers, the "legendary" pizzeria and Italian food eatery, was sold to Elizabeth Montana and Kenny Luciero, who plan to continue offering pizza and other Italian dishes when they take over the restaurant starting Sunday.

Aside from the menu concept, little is known about the new restaurant that will occupy the space at 1414 Lincoln Ave. but Goldin said patrons can expect to see the restaurant closed for an unknown period of time while the new owners remodel the interior. He said they have not yet decided on a new name for the restaurant.

However, Montana and Luciero will be at the restaurant tonight from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. to answer the public's questions and to "greet the locals and establish themselves as the new pizza paddle bearers," Goldin said.

Checkers was the first restaurant Goldin opened and operated in downtown Calistoga, in May 1987, followed by Brannan's Grill, Flat Iron and Barolo, all of which he opened with Young and are now closed.

Brannan's Grill was shuttered in late July this year due to a downturn in business, unre-

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A Bush 'photo dog' recalls times with late president

By Kim Beltran

Tribune Editor

Of the many U.S. presidents Chick Harry photographed as part of the White House press pool, George H. W. Bush, he said, was the nicest.

A U.S. Congressman before being elected to the oval office in 1988, the 41st president, who died Nov. 30 at the age of 94, respected the journalists covering him and enjoyed hanging out with them, Harry said this week.

"Of the 10 presidents that I was lucky enough to photograph, George H.W. Bush was one of my favorites," said Harry, who upon hearing of the former president's passing, went looking through his files for a few of the images he shot over the years. "He was just the nicest guy."

Bush was representing Texas' 7th District in the House of Representatives when Harry began covering the White House for the



Photographer Chick Harry shot this image of then President George H.W. Bush driving his boat, Fidelity, while on vacation in Kennebunkport, Maine in 1991. Harry covered the White House as a photojournalist from 1968 to 2001, when he retired to Calistoga.

Associated Press in 1968. Lyndon B. Johnson was president.

By the time Bush became president in 1989, Harry was covering the White House for U.S. News & World Report, and had

followed Bush on the campaign trail while also traveling around the country with TV journalist and author David Frost for a U.S. News book called "The Making of a President."

At the time of his presidency, Bush's Air Force One press corps included one photo journalist

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Celaya delays retirement to June 30, 2019

By Kim Beltran

Tribune Editor

Calistoga Police Chief Mitch Celaya will remain on the job through the end of the fiscal year, June 30, 2019, city manager Dylan Feik announced this week.

Celaya, hired in 2012, had intended to retire at year's end but agreed to stay longer to give the city time to find a suitable replacement, Feik told the City Council Tuesday night.

"[He] has been an incredible leader for the community," Feik said. "[He] has accomplished many goals and priorities as set forth by City

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