



- ◀ **ON-THE-JOB TRAINING**
Calistoga High School students explore careers through internships
Below
- ▶ **GARDENING ADVICE**
Karen Chang offers tips and tricks for proper pruning of trees
6
- ▶ **VOLUNTEER GOLFERS**
Mt. St. Helena Golf Course players chip in to spruce up the greens
7

Despite record rain, water restrictions remain

■ Reservoirs full but Calistoga still under Stage I conservation

By Kim Beltran
Tribune Editor

Reservoirs are filled to capacity and overflowing, the Sierra Nevada snowpack, as of last week, was at 184 percent of normal – the highest its been in more than two decades – and there’s more rain on the horizon.

Still, state officials last week extended emergency drought regulations set in place in 2015 by Gov. Jerry Brown in an effort to help California cope with the effects of a severe four-year drought that is still plaguing large swaths of the state.

Though the regulations were eased a bit in 2016, cities are still required to maintain a level of conservation that ensures a three-year supply of water during drought conditions.

“It’s the new normal, and there’s a fundamental expectation that communities will continue to monitor their usage for the benefit of their residents and the state as a whole,” said Calistoga Public Works director Mike Kim in an interview Wednesday.

The U.S. Drought Monitor, a weekly report put out by federal



PHOTO BY PAT HAMPTON

Calistoga’s Lake Ghisolfo/Kimball Dam Reservoir, which supplies about half the city’s annual municipal water supply, is at full capacity, holding 267 acre feet. The reservoir is 48 feet deep with a surface drainage area of approximately 3.4 square miles.

officials, stated this month that 49 percent of California is no longer in a drought, including every Northern California county from the Bay Area and Lake Tahoe to the Oregon border, although significant parts of Southern California and the San Joaquin Valley remain in drought.

Calistoga’s own reservoir, his-

torically known as Lake Ghisolfo but more commonly referred to by the same name as the dam holding it back – Kimball – is full and overflowing. The reservoir, 48 feet deep with a surface drainage area of about 3.4 square miles, holds 267 acre feet of water and provides about half of the city’s annual water supply.

The capacity of the reservoir can be expanded to 328 acre feet through the installation of “flash boards,” large wooden panels placed atop the dam, but this can only occur after March 1, said Kim.

See **DROUGHT** on page 7

Four Seasons starts sales of resort homes

■ City: Developer ‘close’ to receiving its building permit

By Kim Beltran
Tribune Editor

The bulk of the construction has yet to begin but developers of a high-end destination resort in Calistoga have begun marketing 20 single-family homes that can double as short-term vacation rentals.

Calistoga planning director Lynn Goldberg said her department is “very close” to issuing the building permit for Four Seasons Resort Napa Valley on Silverado Trail and Rosedale Road northeast of the city.

Goldberg said final plans are being checked, and developers must pony up a check for impact fees before the construction permit can be issued. Those fees have previously been estimated to be in the \$1 million to \$2 million range.

See **RESORT** on page 7

Interns get a jump on job training

■ High school seeks local businesses for student internships

By Claudia Aceves
Tribune Reporter

For high school students, often unsure about what career path they want to pursue, the opportunity to “test-drive” a job can sometimes be a difference maker in their lives.

Local business owners also stand to gain from giving students a chance to work and learn a trade. They are able to secure extra help at reduced or no cost while contributing to a well-trained workforce, something employers nationwide say has been in short supply in recent years.

In Calistoga, high school principal Craig Wycoff and

See **INTERNS** on page 12



PHOTO BY CLAUDIA ACEVES

18-year-old Calistoga High School senior Esmeralda Curiel practices using the Calistoga Police Department’s Live Scan machine by fingerprinting Chief Mitch Celaya during one of her shifts this week. Curiel is one of two CHS students working unpaid internships with local businesses – a partnership that gives students a chance to explore possible career paths.

Value of Napa County grape crop up 28 percent to total of \$683 million

By Kim Beltran
Tribune Editor

Higher prices and higher yield combined to increase the value of Napa County’s 2016 wine grape crop 28 percent, from \$533 million in 2015 to \$683 million last year.

The average price per ton for Napa County grapes rose 7.8 percent to \$4,666 per ton, the highest in California.

The information was revealed in the preliminary annual 2016 California Grape Crush Report, released last Friday by state and federal agriculture officials.

“I think it’s all good news if you are a Napa grower,” Glenn Proctor, partner at San Rafael grape brokerage Ciatti Company, told the Napa Valley Register. Proctor said an abnormally light crop in 2015 led to a strong demand for grapes in 2016.

“We saw a very active market and higher prices in 2016,” in Napa County, Proctor was quoted as saying. “They were motivated because of the shorter 2015 crop.”

The number of tons harvested in Napa County rose from 123,319 in 2015 to 146,557 in 2016, a 19 percent increase.

Napa’s cabernet sauvignon remained the region’s most coveted varietal, costing an average of \$6,943 per

See **GRAPES** on page 11