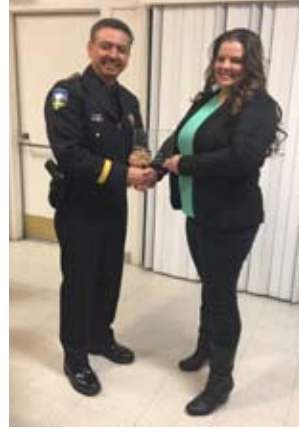


# Calistoga Tribune

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- ▼ **YOUTH OF THE YEAR**  
Calistoga teens earn accolades from local Boys & Girls Clubs  
**BELOW**
- ◀ **TOP SAFETY OFFICERS**  
Calistoga PD names top cop, dispatcher for the year 2017  
**2**
- ▶ **SPRING IS FOR SPORTS**  
Baseball, softball players hitting the fields to prep for season  
**12**

## Review identifies lapses in district office efficiency

**By Granville Fox**  
Tribune Reporter

An outside review of the organization and efficiency of two Calistoga Joint Unified School District departments found that while the District functioned well in its day-to-day operations there were areas where they fell short, including effective communication with school site personnel.

Customer service protocol and establishing or updating district policies – including one for employee safety

See **DISTRICT** on page 7

## Fair board in limbo without JPA

■ Members continuing operations but say with no contract or direction from county they will enter 'shutdown mode' July 1

**By Kim Beltran**  
Tribune Editor

The Fair Association Board of Directors last week said it will continue business as usual through the end of the year but will enter “shut down mode” starting July 1 if Napa County doesn’t renew its contract or adopt a new management plan by then.

During a special meeting in Napa last week that lasted seven hours, board members tried to find consensus

on how the non-profit group, contracted by the county through the end of the year to run the fairgrounds, should move forward.

After the first 2.5 hours of discussion, board members were leaning toward putting the county on notice via written letter that by mid year, they would begin planning for their exit as overseers of the 70-acre fairgrounds

See **FAIRGROUNDS** on page 3



PHOTO BY KIM BELTRAN

Members of the NC Fair Association board, including (l-to-r) Bob Fidaman, Dana Cole, CEO Carlene Moore and Bob Beck, met in Napa last week with a consultant to discuss future of fairgrounds.

## Council to adopt water rate hikes

**By Kim Beltran**  
Tribune Editor

Water and sewer rate increases recommended in November by a city subcommittee are set to be adopted later this month.

The City Council on Tuesday directed staff to return Feb. 20 with an ordinance that calls for water rate increases of more than 60 percent and sewer fee hikes of more than 55 percent over the next five years. The rates, which will increase incrementally each year, will jump by 15 percent for both sewer and water beginning this year.

The rate increases are needed, according to the city, to cover the

See **WATER** on page 7

## Street ramps set for ADA makeovers

**By Kim Beltran**  
Tribune Editor

Construction on 24 curb handicap ramps along Lincoln Avenue and Foothill Boulevard is gearing up to begin in May or June, California Department of Transportation officials told the City Council Tuesday.

The project is expected to be complete by year’s end, Caltrans project manager Ahmad Rahimi told the council.

Caltrans is in charge of the project and footing the bill because the two roads are state highways.

The ramps must be updated to meet settlement terms of a 2006 lawsuit filed against Caltrans by

See **RAMPS** on page 6



PHOTO BY CLARK JAMES MISHLER

## Storytime crossing

Kids and teachers from Hearts & Hands Preschool cross Lincoln Avenue Tuesday morning on their way to Family Storytime at the Calistoga Library. Children and families are invited to attend the program, which features stories, poetry and music, every Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. through May 1 at the library, 1108 Myrtle St.

## Calistoga teen named Boys & Girls Club ‘Youth of Year’



PHOTO COURTESY BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

Four members of the Boys & Girls Clubs of St. Helena and Calistoga were recognized Jan. 25 as Youths of the Year for their club units. Calistoga’s Lucas Marquez, fifth from the left front and center, was named Youth of the Year for the entire organization. Calistoga’s David Blancas, second from the right, was Youth of the Year for the Calistoga Unit.

**By Granville Fox**  
Tribune Reporter

Calistoga High School freshman Lucas Marquez is still on Cloud 9 after being named 2018 Youth of the Year for the Boys & Girls Clubs of St. Helena and Calistoga.

Marquez was among four youths honored recently by the organization, which also named 10-year-old David Blancas as its Calistoga Unit Youth of the Year.

“It’s shocking. Even today it still feels like a dream that happened,” said the 15-year-old, who spends his after-school hours at the club’s Teen Center on Grant Street. “I really wanted to win but I didn’t want to think too much of

myself. The other three kids were really good; their speeches were really good but, I don’t know, it was really nice to win.”

In a letter of recommendation, CHS art and drama teacher Tyrone Sorrentino praised Marquez for his ability to stand up for what he believes in; for being a model of kindness and positivity, for helping those who are struggling, and for accepting others as they are.

Some of Marquez’ ability to empathize with others stems from his journey as a transgender teen, an adjustment that he said has taken time but one that his peers and family members support.

“I’m really grateful to have it

See **YOUTH** page 6