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Two Calistoga businesses receive awards for being sustainable
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Outpouring of support for waitress



Michelle aka Shelley Welch pours coffee re-fills for Orange County visitors Chuck and Margot Rodelli on Tuesday at Cafe Saraformia, where she has worked for over 20 years. Despite almost succumbing to breast cancer in 2012, she survived, returned to her job and is in remission.

PHOTO BY CLARK JAMES MISHLER

Fundraiser put on by friends sought \$5,000 for lighter, portable oxygen tank for cancer-stricken woman but brings in \$23,000

By Kim Beltran
Tribune Editor

In December of 2012 as Michelle (Shelley) Welch lay comatose in a Santa Rosa hospital, doctors began preparing her family for the worst. "They didn't think she was going to make it," her daughter, Danielle, told the Tribune this week. "They told us to spend as much time with her as possible; they didn't think she was going to leave the hospital."

But Welch, who had been diagnosed with Stage 4 breast cancer that January, not only woke up from her coma; she was released to go home the day before Christmas. "When I woke up, I just said to myself, 'OK, you've got to get up; you've got to fight,'" Welch said this week while serving food and beverages to customers at Cafe Saraformia, where she has worked for more than 20 years. Like Welch, most of her colleagues at the popular 'locals' restaurant have also

worked there for 20 years or more, creating a familial bond between members of the staff. They pulled together to cover Welch's shifts while she was ill, so she would have a job to return to, and then Paula Chaves earlier this year decided to organize a silent auction to raise money to help her purchase a lighter portable oxygen tank that she must wear 24/7 due to lung damage from the cancer.

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Council debates 'updating' city's community center

By Kim Beltran
Tribune Editor

It needs a new roof. The interior is worn and drab. The sounds of toilets flushing and blowing hand dryers often elicit giggles or eye-rolls during public meetings. There's no proper access for the disabled. There's no question Calistoga's Community Center – used for everything from City Council meetings and senior lunches to exercise classes and special events – needs some TLC. The question City Council members grappled with Tuesday night was how much and at what cost.

"Realistically thinking, we're going to be in this building for a lot longer than any of us think we're going to be," said mayor Chris Canning,

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\$28,500 in grants to six non-profits

By Kim Beltran
Tribune Editor

Six local non-profit groups are the beneficiaries of the city's 2017 Community Enrichment Grant program, designed to support the works of community service groups and community-serving projects.

A total of \$28,500 in grants was approved Tuesday night by the City Council, which had budgeted \$35,000 for this year's program.

The city received seven applications seeking
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Coalition honors green businesses with awards

By Kim Beltran
Tribune Editor

Calistoga's Yo El Ray Roasting and Chateau Montelena were among 50 Napa County businesses honored this week for their commitment to environmental sustainability.

The businesses received special awards Monday at the inaugural Napa County Green Business Celebration, held at Domaine Chandon Winery in Yountville.

"I'm tremendously proud of Napa's commitment to creating sustainable companies and cutting our carbon footprint," said Congressman Mike Thompson via a pre-recorded video message. "Being a Certified Green Business isn't just about a catchy label. It's about commitment. It's about making meaningful changes to minimize your impact on the environment."

"You've shown we can create good jobs and grow our economy without sacrificing our environment," added Thompson, who recently joined the bipartisan Climate Solutions Caucus in Washington, D.C. and is an advocate for addressing climate change.

Co-hosted by Napa County, the Napa Valley Vintners and Sustainable Napa, the celebration acknowledged local businesses and organizations that received their Green Business Certifications or were recertified within the past 18 months.

Napa County was one of the first participants in the Bay Area Green Business Program, which later became the statewide California Green Business Program. In 2008, the NVV and other industry partners launched Napa Green

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PHOTO BY KIM BELTRAN

Stop here

The intersection at Lincoln Avenue and Cedar Street is now a four-way stop after multiple complaints that the work being conducted by Caltrans on the Lincoln Avenue Bridge was creating a dangerous situation for pedestrians trying to cross there. In addition to the new stop signs, crews placed signs at the other end of the bridge warning drivers of the temporary pedestrian crosswalk placed there. The placement of construction equipment and barricades in the southern traffic lane of the bridge creates blindspots at either end of the span, making it difficult for drivers to see bicyclists and pedestrians wanting to cross. The bridge replacement project will continue for more than two years – close to 30 months – before it is complete. For more photos of the project, please see Page 5.