

Calistoga Tribune

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Propane truck crash on Highway 128 forces evacuations and road closure

By **Kim Beltran**
Tribune Editor

A propane tanker truck overturned on Highway 128 five miles north of Calistoga Tuesday morning, springing a leak that prompted the mandatory evacuation of about 20 residents within a one-mile radius of the accident.

Law enforcement officers from both Napa and Sonoma counties went door-to-door within the evacuation zone to alert homeowners of the potential danger, said Calistoga Police Chief Mitch Celaya, who was among them.

Fire personnel from several agencies, including Calistoga, monitored the crash site while allowing the highly volatile gas to dissipate and to prevent potential ignition sources from sparking a fire or explosion.

Highway 128 was closed shortly after the 10:30 a.m. accident from Bennett Lane on the south side to the Sonoma County line on the north end. The evacuation order was lifted at 3 p.m. and the roadway opened a short time later after the leak was stopped and the truck removed.

The Suburban Propane truck driver, James Pittman, 53, of Rohnert Park, was able to get out of the vehicle on his own and was uninjured. He told the California Highway Patrol that he drifted off the roadway and caught a tire on the asphalt edge, causing him to lose control on a curve, Public

See **PROPANE** on page 6



PHOTO BY KIM BELTRAN

Caltrans, fire and police officials discuss their next move on Highway 128 near the Pochini Christmas Tree Farm where a propane tanker truck rolled on its side and began leaking its fuel load.

CHS teachers retiring with collective 65 years service

By **Claudia Aceves**
Tribune Reporter

After a combined 65 years of working for the Calistoga Joint Unified School District, teachers Anna Orozco and Ruth Gelinas will be retiring at the end of this school year.

Orozco has been the Spanish teacher at Calistoga High School for nearly 40 years, and Gelinas has been the special education teacher for 26 years.

"I couldn't ask for a better job in this beautiful place. In a small school setting you really get to know the kids," Gelinas said. "I've made my corner of the world a better place by being here."

"I'm thankful to have had a job that was so challenging and so rewarding," Orozco said.

Over the decades they've taught generations of families who attended



PHOTO BY CLARK JAMES MISHLER

Anna Orozco, left, and Ruth Gelinas are retiring at the end of this school year after working at Calistoga High School for 40 and 26 years, respectively.

See **TEACHERS** on page 7

Calistoga bartender facing felony hit-and-run charges

■ Daniel J. Bazzoli left the scene of a March 15 collision in Santa Rosa that killed pedestrian Michael John Campbell, 25

By **Kim Beltran**
Tribune Editor

Local bartender and former Calistoga resident Daniel Joseph Bazzoli is facing felony hit-and-run charges following an early morning March 15 accident that claimed the life of a Santa Rosa man.

Michael John Campbell, 25, was declared dead at the scene – Highway 12 in east Santa Rosa just west of Middle Rincon Road – after a passerby flagged down a police officer to report an unconscious man lying in the shoulder of the west-bound lane.

Bazzoli, 42, was reportedly on the way to his Santa Rosa home after working a shift at Susie's Bar in Calistoga when the 1:20 a.m. collision occurred.

Santa Rosa police launched a search for the driver suspected of hitting Campbell, reporting that they had found the front grill and passenger side headlight of a blue 2006 Mitsubishi Raider at the crash site.

Bazzoli turned himself in sev-

eral hours later, Santa Rosa police said, and allowed them to inspect his 2006 Mitsubishi Raider truck, which showed damage consistent with the crash.

Bazzoli, a 1995 graduate of Calistoga High School, was charged with felony hit-and-run and booked into Sonoma County jail. He posted bail and was released the same day, a jail employee said.

Campbell was reportedly an apprentice electrician and was walking to visit his girlfriend when he was struck. Police have not released further details because the incident remains under investigation.

Another pedestrian was killed Wednesday morning around 7 a.m. in southwest Santa Rosa when he was struck by a vehicle while crossing Stony Point road. It was still dark and raining and the driver, 18-year-old Esteban Garcia Martinez, said he didn't see 53-year-old Richard Anthony Burns until it was too late.

Police said Burns was not in a crosswalk, and they determined that Martinez was not impaired.

City renews state water contract through 2085

By **Kim Beltran**
Tribune Editor

■ Council also takes steps to pay down more than \$11 million in unfunded pension and benefits liabilities by establishing an investment fund that provides a Pension Rate Stabilization Plan

The City Council on Tuesday took care of two business items with long-range implications, agreeing first to terms that will ultimately extend its state water contract through 2085, and then setting up a new account to offset its unfunded pension and benefits liabilities.

The contract extension is needed so that the Department of Water Resources and State Water Project contractors can issue cheaper, longer-term bonds for needed capital improvements.

As one of three cities that make up the Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation

District, Calistoga pays for the right to an annual allotment of water and its delivery via the North Bay Aqueduct. According to Public Works director Mike Kirn, the state allotment accounts for between 50 and 60 percent of Calistoga's public water supply.

In extending its contract with its 29 member districts, the Department of Water Resources, according to Kirn, is avoiding charging them what would be "astronomical" rate increases to pay for significant improvements to State Water Project infrastructure.

The DWR instead wants to issue bonds to

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Public invited to Council goal-setting, budget talks

By **Kim Beltran**
Tribune Editor

Do you think the city should set aside more money for a sports complex on lower Washington Street?

Should it continue to buy parcels of land for workforce and affordable housing projects?

Does Calistoga need a new city hall and where should it be located?

How about a second free shuttle bus? Or a senior citizens center?

Now is the time to speak up. On Thursday, April 4,

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