

# Calistoga Tribune

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50¢

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS



Turn clocks FORWARD one hour Saturday night before bed

- ▼ **NETFLIX TO FILM HERE**  
Coming soon to Lincoln Ave.: Amy Poehler, Tina Fey comedy  
**BELOW**
- ▶ **CELEBRATING TREES**  
Arbor Day Foundation members can receive 10 free seedlings  
**7**
- ▶ **BASEBALL TODAY**  
CHS team set to face Tomales after tough loss to St. Vincent  
**12**

## Second supes' Blakeley vote seals the deal

By Kim Beltran  
Tribune Editor

The Napa County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday finalized an earlier decision to adopt as an ordinance, petition language allowing a Calistoga-area construction company to continue operating on land zoned for agriculture.

The ordinance allowing Blakeley Construction to remain in business at its rural Franz Valley School Road location was approved on a 3-2 vote with supervisors Alfredo Pedroza and Brad Wagenknecht dissenting.

"I don't want anyone to think that I didn't understand the gravity of adopting this initiative as an ordinance," said supervisor Diane Dillon, addressing concerns from some that not sending the initiative to the ballot sets a dangerous precedence and violates county measures aimed at keeping the board from changing certain zoning laws without a vote of the people.

However, she said, the Blakeley initiative isn't a "rezoning" but rather a special circumstance that warranted adoption by the board.

See **BLAKELEY** on page 5

## 17th Crab Fest nets \$117,000 for Soroptmists

By Pat Hampton  
Tribune Publisher

Television personality Leslie Sbrocco used humor, pathos, chatter and tequila to coax a record \$117,000 from the pockets of 350 generous bidders at Saturday's 17th annual Soroptimist Crab Fest & Raffle fundraiser.

The sold-out event filled round tables seated with 8-10 guests who first dined on all-you-can-eat salad, bread and 1,250 pounds of crab before Sbrocco took the stage at 8:35 p.m. to offer the first of nine live auction lots, a Firehouse Birthday Party and Cake. Donated by the Calistoga Fire Department, Bella Bakery and Calistoga Creamery, sold for a high bid of \$500.

Sbrocco, host of the popular KQED television restaurant review show 'Check, Please!' collected enough cash to easily surpass last year's haul of \$106,000 and dwarf 2016's and 2015's gross take of \$95,000 and \$82,000, respectively.

With opening bids starting slightly higher than the Calistoga

See **FEED** on page 6

## Return to the sanctuary

*Community Presbyterian Church pastor David Moon-Wainwright unbolts a church pew from the floor of the 'Green Church's' sanctuary, built at the corner of Third and Washington Streets in 1871. Moon-Wainwright is conducting his first service in the sanctuary since the church was red-tagged by the city a year ago for unsafe conditions related to a massive water leak that flooded the social hall and basement.*

PHOTO BY KIM BELTRAN



## Community Presbyterian Church will open Sunday for first service in more than a year

By Kim Beltran  
Tribune Editor

Calistoga's iconic Community Presbyterian Church will open the doors of its sanctuary to the public this Sunday for the first time in more than a year.

"The green church," as locals call it, was red-tagged by the city last March for health and safety reasons related to poor building maintenance and a mold problem aggravated by a major water leak four months prior.

Since then, the church has spent between \$40,000 and \$50,000 on repairs that allow use of the sanctuary and a few other rooms,

pastor David Moon-Wainwright said in an interview on Tuesday.

"After generous work by architect Hal Taylor and contractor Paul Coates, the city has agreed our building is safe enough for occupancy in the sanctuary, library, office and kitchen," the pastor wrote in an email to his congregation and the media.

An new wheel chair lift that meets federal Americans with Disabilities Act regulations has been installed at the entrance nearest the church parking lot, Moon-Wainwright said, as well as new exit

See **CHURCH** page 11



PHOTO BY KIM BELTRAN

Pastor David Moon-Wainwright operates a new wheelchair lift installed at the back door of the church.

## Council OKs consultant's rate hike plan

By Kim Beltran  
Tribune Editor

In spite of a last-minute alternative presented by two Calistoga residents, the City Council on Tuesday adopted as final, water and wastewater rate increases recommended by an ad-hoc committee and consultant.

Under the newly adopted five-year rate structure, all residential customers will pay the same new rate - \$7.06 - for every unit of water they use. In addition, the fixed monthly charge for water service will increase by \$10 from \$23.05 to \$33.03, and the fixed rate sewer charge will go up to \$69.49, from \$65.25.

The process of implementing water and sewer rate increases began in November when the council unveiled a recommendation based on 14 months of study by an ad-hoc council committee working with city manager Dylan Feik and consultants from Bartle Wells Associates.

Since then, residents attending several public hearings and a community forum have argued against the rate increases, shared input and ideas for lessening the impact of the hikes and, in one instance, devised an alternative rate proposal. That plan, presented Tuesday night by Paul Knoblich and Antoinette Mailliard, was based on data provided by the city - the same data used by the consultant and the ad-hoc committee.

The Knoblich-Mailliard plan kept the fixed charges where they are and instead raised the volumetric charge of water to roughly \$10 per unit. This plan, they said, encourages conservation and doesn't penalize users whose water

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## Netflix gearing up to film Poehler/Fey comedy here

By Pat Hampton  
Tribune Publisher

An original comedy starring Tina Fey, Amy Poehler and Maya Rudolph will begin filming in the Napa Valley this spring with Calistoga as the featured small town where three women escape their urban lives to celebrate their 50th birthdays in the wine country.

The Netflix comedy, titled "Wine Country," is set for release in the fall. The three women co-stars are all alumnae of the television comedy show Saturday Night



Tina Fey



Amy Poehler

Live and frequently work together.

Calistoga mayor Chris Canning confirmed this week that Netflix officials, including Poehler, who will co-star and also direct the movie, were in town Monday to

apply for permits, scout filming locations and meet with police chief Mitch Celaya, recreation director Rachel Melick and city manager Dylan Feik. Canning, as executive director of the chamber of commerce, met with the movie's location manager, Caleb Duffy, on Tuesday.

"He was very excited about coming to Calistoga and working here," Canning said. "He said he found our town officials and the process easy to work with and planned on coming back. Which we encouraged him to do."

The production team of 20 or so Netflix employees dressed mostly in black touring downtown on Monday did not go unnoticed by locals.

Hardware store owner Tim Petersen told the Tribune a member of the group approached his brother Mark about lighting a night scene from the store's Lincoln Avenue parking lot. Other merchants asked the newspaper about a large group of people dressed in black taking photos and crossing the streets.

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