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School district begins next phase of upgrades

■ Plans call for new roofing, fire alarm upgrades, heating and air conditioning at CES for \$3.4 million

By Amanda Rhodes

Tribune Staff Writer

Students will be nowhere in sight but that doesn't mean Calistoga schools will be empty as Phase II construction is set to begin and maintenance projects are ready to take place during the summer months.

Superintendent Esmeralda Mondragon said that Phase II construction will begin June 8 at the elementary and junior/senior high school and will be completed be-

fore fall classes begin in August.

Blach Construction, which successfully completed Phase I modernization and new construction projects on time and under budget, entered into a contract agreement to provide Measure A Phase II construction services with the district.

"We are very satisfied with the work they have completed," Mondragon said about Blach Construction.

Both schools will receive up-

dates but most of the construction for the next phase will be focused at the elementary school.

Construction at the Calistoga Elementary School will include: modernization and HVAC replacement of classrooms 1-8, roofing replacements and fire alarm upgrades throughout the campus. The cost to complete the work is expected to be \$3,454,944.

Mondragon said that modernization to rooms 1-8 includes removing all of the classroom case-

work, improving lighting, floor replacement and infrastructure work that will help house more technology.

"The whole face of the classrooms will be different. They will look like new classrooms," Mondragon said.

New furniture, including teacher desks, will be brought in and everything will be brought up to code.

Construction to take place at the junior/senior high school will

include a HVAC upgrade, estimated to cost \$740,841.

Although it seems like a lot of work for a few months time, Mondragon is assured that all will be finished before school is set to begin again in the fall.

"It is a bit of a time crunch but the general contractor is confident that the work can be done and on time," Mondragon said.

Mondragon said that Phase III construction would most likely be

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PHOTOS BY CLAUDIA ACEVES

Kathy Flamson with son Tom Flamson and grandson Tristan Flamson at their campsite for Calistoga's Relay for Life held from 9 a.m. Saturday to 9 a.m. Sunday at the fairgrounds.

Relay for Life collects \$28,000

By Claudia Aceves

Tribune Cub Reporter

Fifteen teams and 87 participants joined together for 24 hours and raised \$27,807 toward the fight against cancer at the newly returned Relay for Life fundraiser event last weekend.

The participating teams camped overnight and took turns walking around a track that was lined with personalized luminarias to commemorate those who are battling with cancer, or have lost their lives to the fight.

There were about 175 attendees at its new location at the Napa County Fairgrounds. The event took place at the Calistoga High School track field previous years.

The Relay for Life, which began in Washington 30 years ago, made its debut in Calistoga in 2005.

The last time the Relay for Life was in Calistoga was in 2012 and



PHOTO BY CLAUDIA ACEVES

Relay for Life participants Kathy Flamson, Jim Flamson, Sam Arlen, event chair Deborah Chambers and Susan Korsz, American Cancer Society Community Manager/Relay for Life.

this is the first time it returns after it moved to St. Helena for two years.

"They wanted to utilize the valley so they put it in St. Helena to see if the community would embrace it," manager Susan Korcz said.

Korcz said that many Calistoga's gave her a call requesting that the event take place in Calistoga again.

Jordan Garcia sang the national

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Council has no affection for free-standing ATM machines

■ Zone change dies from lack of motion

By Pat Hampton

Tribune Publisher

There will be no free standing automated teller machines in Calistoga, city councilmembers decided Tuesday night.

Last fall an architectural firm requested an amendment to the city zoning code that would allow the free-standing machines to exist, and wanted to build a kiosk that would house an ATM machine at Silverado Ace Hardware, across the street from the closed bank.

Senior planner Erik Lundquist was tasked with bringing a zoning ordinance back that would allow off-site ATMs with conditions addressing lighting, safety

and cleanliness. It was approved by the planning commission in February and then came before the city council this week.

"I'm fundamentally opposed to this," Mayor Chris Canning said at the start of discussion. Canning said when the council was asked to approve the drafting of an ordinance allowing the free standing money machines, he asked the Bank of America representatives if they were moving an ATM across the street because they were closing the BofA branch in Calistoga. "They said no, and then a few months later they closed the bank," Canning said.

City manager Richard Spitler said that ATMs were supposed to be an accessory to the building's

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Drought tolerant demonstration garden planned for police station

■ New garden to show alternatives to lawns

By Pat Hampton

Tribune Publisher

The police department will lose its thin, water guzzling lawns in front of the building as gardeners plan and build a drought tolerant demonstration garden.

Napa Valley UC Master Gardeners presented a plan Tuesday to the city council to eliminate the threadbare lawns in front of the cop shop and instead make it a showplace of drought tolerant plants and landscaping.

Glen Smith, who has put in 15 years as a Master Gardener in Napa and Sonoma counties, said another purpose of the garden is to help educate people about climate change. Smith said landscape architect David Dexter would plan the garden and supply a design and plant list by early next week.

He hoped the project would be installed and finished by the end of June.

Dexter spoke at the Wednesday night mayor's forum held at the Community Center to share the project with the community.

"This area is so special," Dexter said. "We can make this look beautiful, we can make it world class." Dexter shared a short slide show with photos of native plants like the sticky monkey flower, fushias, thyme and salvia to consider for the new garden.

Mayor Chris Canning mused that pink and purple are supposed to be calming colors, and because people going into the police station may be angry over parking tickets, the garden should consider including those colors.

City manager Richard Spitler said the lawn in front of the station is watered using potable city water and he wants to reduce the water usage.