

Calistoga Tribune

Independently owned and published in Calistoga for Calistogans since 2002

\$1

Nov. 26, 2021

STELLAR SEASON ENDS

Wildcat football squad falls to Branson in championship

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Calistoga is taking steps to meet food waste reduction law

■ Residents, businesses must comply in order to meet goal of 75% cut by 2025

By Kim Beltran

Tribune Editor

The City of Calistoga is taking steps to enforce a 2016 California law aimed at reducing the amount of organic waste, including edible food, that goes into landfills.

Last week, the City Council held a public hearing on an ordinance that meets the requirements of the law and assigns responsibility for its implementation to the Upper Valley Waste Management Agency, of which Calistoga is a member.

The ordinance defines the various producers of food waste – from single-family residences to restaurants, food distributors and food facilities – and lays out what each of their responsibilities are when it comes to disposing of the leftover material.

Residents and businesses that don't comply could ultimately face citations and fines, although a hefty education outreach plan is part of the program.

SB 1383 mandates a 50% reduction in organic waste from 2014 levels by 2020, and a 75% reduction in organic waste by 2025.

The law also seeks to enforce the recovery of enough food to generate 1.8 billion meals for donation by increasing recovery of edible food 20% by 2025, according to CalRecycle, the state's Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery.

The law is set to take effect Jan. 1 2022.

SB 1383 sets requirements for separating organic waste, which includes food scraps, food-soiled paper, paper products, green material and landscape and pruning waste, prior to it going into landfills where it accounts for 20% of the methane gas generated in California, CalRecycle reports.

Methane is a greenhouse gas that, over a 20-year time frame, is said to be 84 times more effective at trapping heat in the atmosphere than carbon dioxide. In the United States, municipal solid waste landfills are the third largest human-related emitters of methane, after oil and gas operations and livestock.

If fully implemented, SB 1383 would redirect 26.8 million tons of organics from landfills by

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Calistoga resident and winemaker Heidi Barrett, left, pours tastes of her La Sirena wines at last Saturday's Calistoga Wine Growers Food & Wine event at Solage resort. Below, Kimberly Jackson Wickam shares her Jax Vineyards wines with guests at the Food & Wine tasting event hosted by CWG and Solage.



PHOTOS BY CLARK JAMES MISHLER

CALISTOGA WINE GROWERS

CWG, Solage bring back Food & Wine event

By Anne Ward Ernst

Tribune Correspondent

The consensus was no surprise – after a 19-month pandemic-forced hiatus, attendees and vendors alike were happy to see faces without masks at the Calistoga Food and Wine grand tasting event at Solage last Saturday.

"It's great to be back," said Larry Arnoff, co-president of Calistoga Winegrowers Association.

For Ramya Nair and Nadine Besson, both of San Francisco, the timing was perfect. They were among a handful of other women who were celebrating a bride-to-be's bachelorette party.

"We came here two years ago for my own bachelorette party," Nair said. She enjoyed it so much at that time that she recommended the event for her friend.

Nair said she loves the concept of dozens of wineries pouring tastes of their wine in one location.

"You don't have to go to 30 different wineries," she said.

The annual event hosted by Solage is typically held in April, but the pandemic canceled the event in 2020 and caused a postponement this year. Nearly 40 wineries and a handful of local restaurants and food purveyors spread out in separate buildings and the lawn at Solage, giving an open and relaxed feel, and plenty of social distancing space.

Nair and Besson made new friends while standing in line

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Rep. Thompson, political leaders tout infrastructure bill in Calistoga

By Kim Beltran

Tribune Editor

Calistoga's Garnett Creek Bridge on Greenwood Avenue, closed since it was damaged in a 2014 earthquake, served as the backdrop Tuesday morning for a press conference in which U.S. Congressman Mike Thompson and others touted the benefits of new federal legislation that will pump \$1.2 trillion into national infrastructure repair, broadband expansion and climate change solutions.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, signed into law earlier this month by President Joe Biden, will provide California with \$45.5 billion for clean transportation infrastructure – roads, highways, bridges and

transit programs – to help mitigate climate change impacts and create jobs.

"It's estimated that this bill will generate two million jobs a year for the next 10 years," said Thompson, a Napa County resident who has represented California's 5th District in the nation's House of Representatives for 22 years. "It's also an incredible first step in addressing climate change...I believe the biggest issue that we face as a nation and the world. We can get everything else right but if we don't get climate change right it's all going to be for naught."

Thompson noted that the bill would bring

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U.S. Rep. Mike Thompson speaks in Calistoga Tuesday about the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the impact it will have on the U.S. and California economies in the coming years.

PHOTO BY CLARK JAMES MISHLER