

May 20, 2022

THAT'S A WRAP

Wildcat sports season  
comes to a close

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SHUTTERSTOCK IMAGE

Members of Calistoga's Green Committee have reached out to businesses such as Cal Mart and local restaurants about the creation of an ordinance that would ban the use of polystyrene and plastic foodware products that end up in the waste stream and don't break down, harming the environment.

## Green Committee taking aim at harmful to-go food containers

By Julie Mitchell  
For the Tribune

The Calistoga Green Committee, established as an advisory board to help the city combat climate change, has taken on the challenge of reducing harmful "to-go" food-container waste by drafting an ordinance to limit use of these single-trip, disposable items that often are not recyclable or biodegradable.

Food and beverage packaging – products made from lightweight plastic materials, i.e., polystyrene foam containers often used by res-

taurants for takeout meals or leftovers – is responsible for close to one-quarter of California's waste stream annually, and these products are not returnable, recyclable, or biodegradable, Green Committee members discovered.

The foodware ordinance takes aim at items such as Styrofoam 'clamshell' containers, straws, stirrers, utensils, condiment cups and packets, cup lids, sleeves and tops used as part of food service or packaging.

The ordinance was proposed during a routine Green Committee meeting in May following

extensive research by committee members. It would seek to restrict food vendors and food providers to the use of natural fiber-based, compostable materials for take-out foods.

Jeff Mitchem, Planning & Building director for the City of Calistoga, said that the proposed ordinance will be handled much like the Green Committee's successful ordinance banning gas-powered leaf blowers – set to take effect on July 1. But, he said, be-

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## Soroptimist club rewards women working on futures

By Kim Beltran  
Tribune Editor

Thanks to Calistoga Soroptimists, four female students and one working mom received several thousand dollars each to put toward their college educations.

The club, whose mission is "to provide women and girls the resources and opportunities to reach their full potential and live their dreams," also honored two of its own – Carol Bush and Charlotte Williams – with its Ruby Award for "making extraordinary differences" in the lives of women.

Saida Morales, a Calistoga High School senior, received her \$3,000 scholarship from club member Suzan Shaw, who shared

that Morales has held leadership positions such as president of the Rotary-based service club Interact; has been a four-year member of the Soroptimist-sponsored campus community service "S" Club; is president and CEO of the Junior Achievement Volunteer group and serves as a liaison between the Associated Student Body of Calistoga High and the faculty.

She has done all of this while maintaining a 3.5 grade-point average or higher and keeping a part-time job at Copperfield's Book Store since the age of 14.

Morales' passion for journal-

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PHOTOS BY CLARK JAMES MISHLER

Calistoga high school students, left to right, Anny Castro, Monce Perez, Saida Morales and Dulce Alvarado each received a \$3,000 scholarship for higher education from the Calistoga Soroptimist Club last week.

## Tobacco settlement funds to help locals

■ Renters, families, seniors among those who will benefit from dispersal of \$3 million

By Anne Ward Ernst  
For the Tribune

Napa County supervisors approved the dispersal of \$3 million among 19 programs and projects in the county, several of which will support Calistogans.

The funding is from the National Tobacco Settlement Agreement and application of American Rescue Plan Act, and will be handed out over the next three fiscal years.

The funding prioritizes food insecurity, behavioral and physical health care, and housing insecurity. Organizations such as UpValley Family Center, which has partnerships in providing care

and support, will use the money for safety-net services.

A panel that included the county executive officer and director of health and human services reviewed 24 grant applications and presented the final funding recommendations to the Board of Supervisors at Tuesday's regularly scheduled meeting.

For example, a collaborative of organizations that includes UpValley Family Centers, Bay Area Legal, On the Move and Fair Housing Napa Valley was awarded \$150,000 to support eviction and homelessness prevention.

"What we are seeking to do through our collaborative is create resources on the front-end of housing issues, which will hopefully limit the amount of clients that have to seek" homelessness-related services "including the

very real need of having to find alternate housing," said Pablo Zatarain, executive director of Fair Housing Napa Valley.

He said the number of renters in Napa is "up to 46 percent." The number of clients who "were on the brink of homelessness" was exacerbated by the pandemic. The funds will help prevent evictions through legal resources and other benefits and programs.

Funding of \$433,000 over the next two fiscal years will support families and parenting through programs such as Cope Family Center, UpValley Family Centers, and ParentsCan as part of Triple P, which offers parenting classes and support groups.

Feeding it Forward will re-

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## Thompson announces \$10B in funding for ag businesses impacted by '20, '21 disasters

From the office of  
Rep. Mike Thompson

Congressman Mike Thompson, a lifelong Napa Valley resident, announced this week that producers and growers in California and across the country are set to receive \$10 billion in assistance from the Emergency Relief Program (formerly known as the Wildfire and Hurricane Indemnity Program Plus, or WHIP+) to recover from the wildfires, droughts, hurricanes, and other eligible disasters experienced during calendar years 2020 and 2021.

"Family farmers and growers in my district suffered a huge loss because of wildfires and smoke taint, leading to millions in lost revenue," said Thomp-

son. "I have been pushing the Department of Agriculture to provide guidance and open applications for this program ever since my legislation was signed into law. For those who suffered losses due to a disaster in 2020 and 2021, they have been anxious for relief and are desperate for assistance to get back on their feet. This news from the Department of Agriculture is long overdue and I am going to continue to work to ensure every family farmer and grower receives the assistance they deserve."

WHIP+ provided payments to producers to offset losses from wildfires, hurricanes, and other qualifying natural disasters

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