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ABC's 'Bachelor' has a date at Castello di Amorosa  
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## Event planner heading CEF auction

### Party to move from castle back to fairgrounds

**By Michelle Wing**  
Tribune Staff Writer

There's going to be a "Carnaval" this spring, when the Calistoga Education Foundation (CEF) returns to its roots at the fairgrounds for another themed, gala event.

The CEF board has hired professional events planner Kate Stanley to chair the auction this year, set for Saturday, May 22.

"We're extremely excited to have Kate on board," said T'Anne Butcher, chair of last year's auction, and current

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PHOTO BY MICHELLE WING

*First graders in Anna Lorey's class at Calistoga Elementary School play a math game with the "Base Ten Blocks," supplied thanks to a grant from the Calistoga Education Foundation. Children from left to right are Oscar Blancos, Alexa Cazares, Kaitlyn Saunders and Briana Leon. In 2009, CEF awarded \$44,700 in grants to teachers and classrooms, money which is used for educational supplies, field trips, computers, software, and other school "extras" that enrich the learning experience.*

## Driver from deadly crash 'devastated,' says attorney

**By Kim Beltran**  
Tribune Editor

A Calistoga woman is at the center of a tragic accident that claimed the life of an elderly St. Helena woman on Jan. 28.

Elsie "Alice" Stefani, 81, died after being hit by a car as she walked her two dogs in St. Helena that evening.

The driver of the vehicle that struck Stefani was 52-year-old Pierrette Therene, wife of Philippe Therene. The couple are longtime Calistoga residents.

Police reported that at about 5:50 p.m., Stefani was walking east with the green light in the northern-most crosswalk at the intersection of Highway 29/Main Street and Madrona Avenue and Fulton Road.

Traffic on Fulton Road, which is on the east side of the highway, was stopped waiting for Stefani to cross, said St. Helena Police Cpl. Ramon Jovel, heading up the investigation into the accident.

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## Castello di Amorosa featured Monday on ABC's The Bachelor

**By Kim Beltran**  
Tribune Editor

Some 11.7 million viewers tuning in to watch this week's episode of ABC's hit reality show 'The Bachelor' got an up-close-and-personal view of Calistoga's Castello di Amorosa.

'Bachelor' star Jake Pavelka of Dallas, Texas, visited the castle winery with two of the women he's dating in his search for Mrs. Right. The show features the exploits of a single man looking for love and marriage from among an initial group of 25 eligible women. Week by week, Pavelka eliminates the women until choosing the one he most desires at season's end.

Monday night's episode was actually filmed at Dario Sattui's

castle last Oct. 30, said winery spokesman Jim Sullivan. Cast and crew spent an entire day and late into the evening filming the date, in which Pavelka, 31, and the two young women enjoyed a tour of the castle, a private dinner there and, on television at least, an overnight stay.

In reality, Sullivan said, the three 'Bachelor' stars did not spend the night at the castle, despite being filmed climbing into separate beds in separate bedrooms in the castle.

The Napa Valley stop was part of a south-to-north roadtrip up the California coast with Pavelka and the five remaining bachelorettes.

On the day of filming, Sullivan

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*Larry Kromann brings 40 years of nonprofit work to his CAH role.*

## New housing chief moves in

**By Michelle Wing**  
Tribune Staff Writer

The new president of Calistoga Affordable Housing (CAH) is a man who likes working behind the scenes – but that doesn't mean he's afraid of shaking things up.

Larry Kromann, stepping into the spot vacated by a retiring Bob Fiddaman, says without hesitation, "I am an 'out of the box' thinker. And I've been called an 'extreme change agent.'"

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## Revenue decline offset by cuts in rec budget, worker concessions

**By Pat Hampton**  
Tribune Publisher

The bottom line is, there remains a \$32,000 shortfall in the city's current operating budget after November and December tax revenues failed to meet projections, city council members learned Tuesday.

City Administrative Services director Bill Mushallo said that bigger than anticipated drops in sales tax, hotel taxes and fees for licenses and permits the last two months of 2009 contributed to the additional deficit.

City departments and staff had already cut operating expenditures by \$800,000 between September

2008, when the 2009/10 budget was adopted, and July 2009. In December, a \$425,000 deficit was addressed when department heads cut another \$250,000 from their budgets by leaving vacant job positions unfilled, reducing over-

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*Mel Hammalian, administrative services technician, is retiring from her job at City Hall on April 30 after 24 years of service. Larry Fleming, an operator at the city's wastewater treatment plant, will retire on the same day, completing nearly 30 years.*



PHOTO BY MICHELLE WING

## Two longtime city employees calling it quits at end of April

**By Michelle Wing**  
Tribune Staff Writer

Two city employees with more than 50 years of service between them will be clocking out for the last time April 30.

The retirement plans of Melody "Mel" Hammalian, an administrative services technician who has been with the city for 24 years, and Larry Fleming, an operator at the waste water treatment

plant with nearly 30 years of service, were announced at Tuesday's City Council meeting.

Hammalian, 58, said a lot has changed since her early days with the city.

"When I started, it was crazy," she said, laughing. "The city was so messed up at that time."

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