By Kim Beltran
Tribune Editor

A document analyzing the potential impacts of replacing a tow yard and auto repair shop with a gas station and convenience store is complete and available for public comment through July 11.

The mitigated negative declaration, as it is known, is an environmental review of a proposal by AU Energy to build a new Shell gas station and Loop convenience store on the corner of Foothill Boulevard and Petrified Forest Road. City planning staff, working with a consultant and using a number of individual studies, has prepared the mitigated negative declaration and found that the project will create no impacts significant enough to warrant a more intense Environmental Impact Report.

Staff is recommending that the City Council adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration, which would allow the project to move forward through the design review and approval process. The 106-page environmental review looks at potential adverse impacts to air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, hydrology and water quality, noise and traffic, among others. Within each category, planners evaluate potential impacts and, using See SHELL on page 6

Environmental review of proposed Shell station project open for public comment

By Kim Beltran
Tribune Editor

More and more travelers seeking relaxing, health-conscious vacations are finding what they need in Calistoga, according to data from the world’s largest online travel site.

Napa Valley’s northernmost city was number five on TripAdvisor’s list of Top 10 Wellness Destinations in the United States, the company said in a press release issued Tuesday.

“For travelers looking to improve their spiritual or physical health, or just an escape for digital detox, these destinations offer a wide variety of peaceful accommodations and experiences to revitalize the soul,” Brooke Ferencsi, senior director of communications for TripAdvisor, said in the statement.

A Zen Destination

Trip Advisor names Calistoga a top 10 wellness destination

By Kim Beltran
Tribune Editor

Diane Dillon appears poised to retain her seat as District 3 Napa County Supervisor, leading challenger Cis Perez by 1051 votes with nearly all ballots counted, Napa County Registrar of Voters John Tuteur announced Wednesday.

Measure C, the controversial watershed and oak woodlands preservation initiative, was trailing by 634 votes in what Tuteur called his “final, unofficial, precertification report” on results of the June 5 primary election. See ELECTION on page 11

Latest Cal Fire report lays more blame on PG&E

By Kim Beltran
Tribune Editor

In a new report released last Friday, Cal Fire investigators laid blame on PG & E for a dozen of the more than 170 blazes sparked in what is being called the Fire Siege of October 2017.

Investigators said “electric power and distribution lines, conductors and the failure of power poles” were responsible for 12 fires, ranging from the Redwood Fire in Mendocino County, in which nine people died, to the Norborn, Adobe, Privette, Pythian and Nuns fires that merged in Sonoma and Napa Counties, killing three people.

Absent from this report — as well as one issued last month blaming PG&E for the start of the other Northern California fires during the siege — was any mention of the cause of the Tubbs Fire, which began near a home about three miles north of Calistoga the night of Oct. 8.

The Tubbs Fire, fueled by fierce, gusting winds, raced up and over the Mayacamas mountain range and down into Santa Rosa in the span of a few hours. It laid waste to 36,807 acres and destroyed 5,636 structures. At least 23 people died in this fire, which is still under investigation, according to Cal Fire deputy director of public information Michael Mohler. See FIRES on page 6

Dillon ahead, C losing as final vote tally nears

By Kim Beltran
Tribune Editor

A Zen Destination

Trip Advisor names Calistoga a top 10 wellness destination

By Claudia Aceves
Tribune Reporter

A local community group is seeking funding from the city in order to realize a plan it has created aimed at enhancing existing recreational spaces in an effort to maximize their use.

The year-old group, known as Adelante — Spanish for “forward” or “ahead” — has addressed the City Council at two recent meetings asking to be included in the city’s 2018-19 budget.

“We all know that having outdoor recreation opportunities improves overall health,” said resident Julie Garcia, local business owner and community volunteer, during a public hearing at the June 5 city council meeting. “We love our community and we are here to propose a solu-
ADELANTE
Continued from page 1

A goal to improve our beloved community. Adelante, under the umbrella of the UpValley Family Centers, came together after residents attending a community forum nearly two years ago expressed a general consensus to see more recreational opportunities for locals of all ages. Since then, a group of about 10 members have met every Monday to devise a plan that helps achieve that goal.

Garcia, along with resident Luis Bernal, briefed city officials on details of their project, which they refer to as “Our Dream,” to redesign areas of Logvy Park as well as areas on lower Washington Street near the Little League field.

With the help of a landscape architect and community input from more than 100 people during a public design meeting, Adelante created a short-term, phased plan for Logvy that includes adding a paved jogging trail around the perimeter with workout stations, a permanent soccer field, picnic and barbeque area, bocce ball courts, more lighting and flexible green space to accommodate a variety of programs.

The long-term plan on lower Washington Street includes a skate park and bike ramp – features community youth expressed a desire for as well as a playground, picnic area and multi-use gym or courts.

"Outside of a baseball and soccer field, there’s no other use," Garcia said about the open fields during an interview. “It’s not enticing to where families want to go.”

After the presentation at the city’s budget study session, council members directed city manager Dylan Norrbom to create a Master Plan for lower Washington Street, “so that we have something to do down the road,” Feik said.

Garcia said the group received the support of over 150 locals who are willing to volunteer their time and labor to help make “Our Dream” come to fruition.

“Our goal is to keep the community engaged to fulfill the ‘Dream’ that we have,” Garcia said.

The city is set to adopt the 2018-19 budget at the June 19 city council meeting.

SHELL
Continued from page 1

a check-list system, determine whether the action presents a “potentially significant impact,” a “less than significant impact with mitigation,” a “less than significant impact,” or “no impact.”

In the case of the Shell station project, none of its impacts were determined to be “potentially significant.”

A few activities associated with the proposal would create minor impacts that, with proposed mitigation measures, include “less than significant.”

For example, under aesthetics, planners looked at whether the project would have an adverse effect on the scenic vista of the area or create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views.

Both impacts were ruled to be less-than-significant with mitigation measures, which include screening the project with landscaping and “high-quality wood fencing” as well as the creation of a lighting plan demonstrating “shielded or recessed” fixtures to avoid disturbing adjacent properties.

A potential noise impact to residences west of the project site would be mitigated to less-than-significant through the building of a sound wall on the property line.

To read the entire Mitigated Negative Declaration, go to www.ci.calistoga.ca.us/home/showdocument?id=29495.

A copy is also available at city hall.

FIRES
Continued from page 1

In November, PG&E claimed that the Tubbs Fire may have been started by a third-party electrical line at a residence on Bennett Lane.

The October 2017 Fire Siege involved more than 170 fires and burned at least 245,000 acres in Northern California. About 11,000 firefighters from 17 states and Australia helped battle the blazes.

Below is a summary of the findings from the 12 completed investigations:

**Richwood Fire, Mendocino County, started Oct. 8; burned a total of 36,523 acres, 543 structures. Nine civilian fatalities.**

Cal Fire determined the fire started in two locations and was caused by trees or parts of trees falling onto PG&E power lines.

**Sulphur Fire, Lake County, started Oct. 8; burned a total of 2,207 acres, 162 structures. No injuries.**

Investigators determined the fire was caused by the failure of a PG&E-owned power pole, resulting in the power lines and equipment coming in contact with the ground.

**Cherokee Fire, Butte County, started Oct. 8 and burned a total of 8,417 acres and six structures. No injuries.**

Investigators say the cause of the fire was tree limbs coming into contact with PG&E power lines.

**Blue Fire, Humboldt County, started Oct. 8 and burned a total of 20 acres. No injuries.**

Causes: A PG&E power line conductor separated from a connector, causing the conductor to fall to the ground, starting the fire.

**Redwood Fire, Mendocino County, started Oct. 8; burned a total of 36,523 acres, 543 structures. Nine civilian fatalities.**

Cal Fire determined the fire started in two locations and was caused by trees or parts of trees falling onto PG&E power lines.

**Norrbom, Adobe, Partrick, Pythian and Norrbom, Adobe, Partrick, Pythian and**

Winema fires, Sonoma and Napa counties, started Oct. 8; burned a combined total of 56,556 acres, 1,355 structures. Three civilian fatalities.

**The Pocket Fire, Sonoma County, started Oct. 9; burned 17,357 acres, six structures. No injuries.**

Causes: Tree or tree limb falling and coming into contact with PG&E power lines.

The Atlas Fire, in Napa County, started the evening of Oct. 9; burned 51,624 acres, 783 structures. Six civilian fatalities. Cal Fire investigators determined the fire started in two locations when separate tree limbs fell into the same PG&E power line direction in different locations.

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Calistoga News
Continued from page 1

For a lower-impact workout, residents can also participate in Aqua Aerobics on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8:15 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.; Aqua Fit on Tuesdays, 8:45 to 9:45 a.m.; and Yoga on Thursdays from 8:45 to 9:45 a.m. These classes are offered through a partnership with Calistoga Fit.

Aqua Fit is a high-energy class that uses a combination of aqua aerobics and traditional bootcamp-style moves in the pool to tone and strengthen the body. Aqua Yoga uses the principles and movements of Yoga and adapts them to the water environment, according to the Recreation Department’s Summer Pool Schedule, which can be viewed at www.ci.calistoga.ca.us/city/hall/departments-service/rec/recreation-service/aquatics.

Swim lessons for all age groups are also offered on a regular schedule at the pool. Mondays through Thursdays from 10 to 11:30 a.m. and also from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Youth swim lessons are $45 per two-week session; adult lessons are $60 per session. Visit the website for class descriptions.

Daily fees for lap and recreational swim are $6 for adults 18 and over; $4 for seniors 55 and older, and free for youths two to 17 years of age.

Daily fees for Aqua Aerobics, Yoga and Fit classes are $7 for adults and $5 for seniors. Ten-visit punch passes for lap/recre swim or exercise classes are available, as are 2018 season passes.

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Entrance fee of $25.00 for adults includes all you can eat chili and ribs (drinks not included). Kids under 12 are $7.50 and Kids under 6 eat for free.

With our support of the local community we can raise the money we need for Knights Valley Volunteer Fire Department firehouse improvements.