

## **Attachment: Request to approve grant funding for Small Business Competition.**

### **Status of 2023 Winners:**

#### *Established Business Category*

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, \$30,000, Tyrrell Martial Arts, Middletown: With his winnings, owner Daniel Tyrrell rejuvenated the martial arts school with new equipment, purchased training programs for staff, a van to transport kids from local schools to the studio and hired a driver to do the pickups. Interviews for the 2024-25 school year begin in June.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, \$24,000, Jitter Bean, Lakeport: Owner Maureen Brasier, has opened her 2nd business location. Business is booming, she has 20 employees & 2 in training. She also has hired 1 floater for peak hours and is scouting property for a 3rd location. Her original location is going strong.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place, \$18,000, Eric's Oil Change & Repairs, Nice: Owners Eric and Krystal Purkhiser have successfully added a tire shop and have hired 2 mechanics. They are very busy and report customer traffic from drivers passing through on highway 20 as well as area locals.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Place, \$12,000, La Chilanguita Mexican Restaurant, Clearlake: Owner Denise Herrera maintains an extremely busy restaurant, with catering jobs on the rise; she has added a new venue, The Mercantile, serving food on "Taco Tuesdays." Construction on the "drive thru" addition to her restaurant is scheduled to begin this June. She has added 2 employees to her crew.
- 5<sup>th</sup> Place, \$6,000, Saw Shop Public House, Kelseyville: Owner Weston Seifert has added 3 new employees including a new Event & Catering manager. A new "backyard patio is up and running Thursday—Saturday evenings with food provided by the "Sawmill Snak Wagon." The place is bustling!

#### *Start Up Businesses*

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, \$12,000, BiZi Bees Preschool, Kelseyville: Owners Claire and Michael Zimmerman have completed construction of a play area yard, added a second room to expand their program, and have a full complement of children; plans are underway to purchase another business.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, \$8,000, Lake County Signs & Banners, Lakeport: Owner Lynda Steely reports a very busy storefront operation; she purchased additional printing equipment with her winnings and is receiving referrals from customers and over-flow jobs from another print shop.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place, \$5,000, Wine in the Willows, Lakeport: Owner Cinnamon Vann reports a growing business. She has added a wine club and a variety of regular evening events to draw in locals during the week and regularly serves visitors from out of town. The spot is growing in popularity for small parties and community gatherings; improved advertising is helping to draw in customers.