Middletown's Marcus Gabaldon and John-Wesley Davis joined coach Bill Foltmer at the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame dinner Feb. 17 at the Airport Marriott in Burlingame. See Page A8.

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February 25, 2011

DA's office warns of scams

Staff reports

COUNTY The Lake County District Attorney's Office issued a statement Thursday warning local residents to be cautious when using Craigslist, eBay or other consumer exchange websites after a Lake County resident reported nearly being a scam victim.

The resident posted an item for sale on Craigslist and was contacted by an alleged interested buyer, the office stated. The prospective buyer sent a counterfeit check to the seller for an amount several thousand dollars more than the original purchase, according to the statement.

Then, "the suspect contacted the victim by phone and told him it was a mistake; he said his secretary had mixed up the amounts with another order," the office said. The buyer then directed the seller to "cash the check, keep the amount of the original purchase and send the suspect the difference," the office

"Luckily in this case the victim was smart enough to check with his bank and learn the check was a counterfeit before cashing it," the office said.

Had the seller not checked with the bank, he could have fallen victim to a scam, according to the statement.

The seller would deposit the check into his account, take out cash to repay the buyer and wire the money to the buyer, the office said. Several days later, the bank would learn the check was counterfeit and "by that time it is too late and the victim will be conned out of his money," the office said.

The office reminded people to be weary of online transactions that appear to be unusual, saying that people should contact law enforcement or their bank before completing in such deals.

Good morning subscriber

Bill Tett

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Amendment approved

Jeremy Walsh Staff reporter

LAKEPORT — The Lake County BoardofSupervisors(BOS)Tuesday approved a contract amendment allowing \$25,581 to be paid to the Lake County Community Action Agency (LCCAA) for services rendered during fiscal year 2009/10.

The county had a contract with the LCCAA last fiscal year for a program providing therapeutic counseling to adolescents at New Beginnings Highland High School.

The BOS heard that the LCCAA spent more than the contracted \$200,000 on program services. The old contract capped the compensation amount at \$200,000 but the state reimbursed the county for a total of \$225,581 in claims for the Drug Medi-Cal services provided, according to Mental Health Director Kristy Kelly.

The county would have had to return the extra \$25,581 to the state if the money was not award-

ed to the LCCAA via a contract amendment, Kelly said. "It is our preference to get the money to the people that completed the services," she said.

Kelly said there is a similar contract in place for the current fiscal year but services are currently on

The LCCAA has furloughed employees and canceled programs amid funding difficulties and revelations last week that the agency is delinquent on payment of more than \$100,000 in federal payroll

The BOS adopted a proclamation earlier in Tuesday's regular meeting designating February 2011 as Children's Dental Health Month in Lake County.

'We're very proud of what we've done," First 5 Lake executive director Tom Jordan told the BOS. "But we're not ready to declare victory on the war. We still have a long

County agencies, the Lake County Wine Alliance and other sources help fund the Dental Disease Prevention Program, which in part offers dental care education to students, according to program coordinator Marta Fuller.

The program offers dental screenings and other events to students throughout the year, according to Fuller. Earlier in the month, Northshore students participated in two "Give Kids a Smile Day" events in honor of Children's Dental Health Month, one at Lucerne Elementary School and one in Lakeport.

Fuller and Jordan also provided program statistics to the BOS. The program has provided dental screenings to 2,164 children, including 334 preschool kids, and more than 2,200 children, in preschool through high school, have

See AMENDMENT, Page A3

School board discusses future plans

Kevin N. Hume Staff writer

MIDDLETOWN The Middletown Unified School District (MUSD) Board of Trustees held its second and final meeting of February on Wednesday evening in the multi-use room on the main district campus in Middletown.

The meeting began at 5 p.m. with the board walking the grounds of the campus before convening a closed-session meeting at 5:30 p.m. The board returned to public meeting at 7 p.m.

Eighteen people were present for the public meeting, the majority of whom were students. The board discussed the topics of the next school year's calendar of instruction and spent a great deal of time going over current and future construction projects.

The board meets on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, March 9, 2011 at 7 p.m. in the multi-use room on the

main campus. Kevin N. Hume can be reached at kevin. n.hume@gmail.com or call directly at 263-

5636 ext. 14.

Illness postpones attempted murder trial

Jeremy Walsh Staff reporter LAKEPORT

Witness unavailability Thursday led to another postponement in the Thomas Loyd Dudney attempted murder trial.

Deputy district attorney Art Grothe said the prosecution's lone witness scheduled for Thursday had come down ill and could not make the out-of-county trip to the Lakeport courthouse. The trial had previously been delayed on Feb. 17 because of weather conditions and road closures throughout Lake County.

Dudney, 59, faces 11 felony charges, including attempted murder, mayhem, robbery and assault with a firearm, in connection with an Oct. 20, 2009 incident in which Lakeport resident Ronald Greiner was attacked at his behind the home Record-Bee building. The trial is scheduled

to reconvene Tuesday at 9 a.m. at the Lake County Courthouse, according to Grothe. Contact

Jeremy Walsh at jwalsh@ record-bee.com or call him at 263-5636, ext. *37*.

Crews ready for inclement weather



Photo by Shannon Nailor

PG&E used a helicopter last Friday to repair downed power poles on Cobb.

Staff reports

LAKE COUNTY — The Lake County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services (OES) issued a public advisory for extreme weather conditions forecasted for the next several days.

Law enforcement, fire departments, towing services and utility companies are prepared to face the challenges of the inclement weather.

During this weather event, OES strongly urges the public to avoid any unnecessary travel. Those who must drive should use extreme caution. Speeds should be lowered and distances between vehicles should be increased as appropriate. Motorists are encouraged to be equipped with flares, flashlights, a cell phone, a first aid kit, boots and other extra clothing if they must travel. If generator power becomes necessary, OES urges homeowners to first contact PG&E before starting up as utilizing generators can re-energize power lines and potentially cause serious injury or death to responders and utility workers.

Preliminary audit set

Denise Rockenstein Staff reporter

LAKE COUNTY — Helping hands were extended to the Lake County Community Action Agency (LCAA) Board of Directors Thursday. The board heard from members representing a state network of action agencies.

Representatives from organizations such as Housing and Community Development (HCD), State Association of California Action Agencies (SACAA), California Community Services and Development (CCSD) and North Coast Opportunities, Inc. (NCO) discussed with the board assistance they could provide to help get LCCAA back into proper operation.

Also present for the discussion was Pamela Harrison, Community Services division manager for the Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) program, which is an essential funding source for LCCAA food programs.

Priorities identified during the discussion include financial analysis and continuing of services.

Harrison said her department's priority will be focused on auditing CSBG funds. She said her staff prepared a list of the records sufficient to begin a preliminary audit. Michael Micciche, of California Human Development, offered the assistance of his staff as did the representative from NCO. They said their staff could likely begin the process next week.

Marty Comito, former LCCAA employee said there will likely be trouble getting the financial records. "My feeling is that an entire agency audit needs to be done," she said. "The (CSBG grant) money was put in one place, not in separate bank accounts. We're not sure if the CSBG funds were put in the right place.'

Micciche said part of the problem is that the LCCAA doesn't have a current audit.

Tim Reese, executive director of SACAA, suggested a two-pronged approach beginning with collection of the records the state will want and intimate evaluation of programs between network assistants and former LCCAA program directors and others willing to volunteer their time.

Contact South County reporter Denise Rockenstein at drockenstein@clearlakeobserver. com or call her directly at 994-6444, ext. 11.

Executive director awarded sabbatical Eight nonprofit

Staff reports

LAKE COUNTY Gloria Flaherty, the long-time executive director of Lake Family Resource Center (LFRC) was awarded a sabbatical from The California Wellness Foundation. Flaherty will take her sabbatical from Feb. 28 to July 6. The board of directors appointed Lisa Fronsman as interim executive director during Flaherty's absence. Fronsman serves as director of finance and operations for LFRC.

During her time off Flaherty will take advantage of the time to take a



road trip with her mother, re-establish her vegetable, herb and flower gardens, hike, camp and spend time with her husband and family. "This sabbatical is a gift that I never expected," Flaherty said. "It is an opportunity to refresh and re-energize myself and focus priorities. The organization has worked hard over the past several years to build leadership within the organization so that it can sustain itself through management changes and this time will be an opportunity to test those systems. We have a very capable leadership team and staff and our board of directors is strong, wellversed and well-trained in monitoring and oversight."

health-sector executives were recognized with The California Wellness Foundation (TCWF) sabbatical program award at an October luncheon ceremony in San Francisco. The leadership support program — now in its eighth year — provides eight organizations with grants of \$35,000 each to cover salary and other expenses during their executive directors' sabbaticals, which last a minimum of three months. The eight executives

See SABBATICAL, Page A3

The Lost Boys bring in 'National | Sabbatical | From Page At Rock Artist of the Year' award



Contributed photo

Phoenix Music Awards chose Lake County's The Lost Boys for the National Rock Artist of the Year award to be received on April 30.

Staff reports

Phoenix, AZ. - The Lost Boys, an award-winning band from Lake County, did it again. The Phoenix Music Awards announced that the teen rock band was awarded the 2011 "National Rock Artist of the Year."

The red carpet award show will take place at Salt Mine Studios in Mesa, AZ., on April 30 and will feature performers and recipients from across the United States. The Lost Boys will accept the award on stage as the independent 2011 National Rock Artist of the Year, in recognition of the extensive national touring schedule, multiple industry awards, multiple special guest appearances with national headline artists and as an "on the verge" artist in the music industry. The band will also open

the award show with a two song live performance followed by the presentation of awards to more than 30 Arizona based artists and bands that will be receiving accolades and recognition for musical endeavors, during

This is not the first award for The Lost Boys. In the formative years the band won numerous competitions, including the Ukiah Idol Competition, Ukiah Band Slam and Northern California's Rising Stars competition.

The Lost Boys band is comprised of Beau Bastian, 18, lead vocals and guitar; Jordan Mills, 19, drums; Thomas Cano, 18, bass guitar; Jacob Gill, 15, guitar/vocals and Dustin "Rudy" Rudiger, 18, on keyboards. More information can be found at www.2lostboys.com.

who received the 2010 sabbatical award are: David Ashby, New Morning Youth and Family Services in Placerville; Joan Benoît, Native American AIDS Project in San Francisco; Paula Cohen, Mendocino Coast Clinics in Fort Bragg; Margaret Diaz, Victor Valley Domestic Violence, Inc./"A Better Way" in Victorville; Gloria Flaherty, Lake Family Resource Center in Lake County; Marqueece Harris-Dawson, Community Coalition in Los Angeles; Abdi Mohamoud, Horn of Africa Community in San Diego; and Clare Mounteer, Monterey County Rape Crisis Center in Monterey. "Executive directors at nonprofit

health and human service organizations in California continue to face difficult challenges to meet ever-increasing demands for services in a funding environment that has been deeply impacted by the economic recession," said Gary L. Yates, TCWF president and CEO. "The Foundation developed the sabbatical program to prevent burnout, promote the health of these executives and provide an opportunity to strengthen these organizations. We are pleased to recognize these eight dedicated individuals."

The program was created to support nonprofit leaders and seeks to improve the long-term effectiveness of healthfocused nonprofits by providing executives with the rest they need to continue to direct their organizations' missions. Each organization receives \$30,000 to cover its leader's salary during the sabbatical, plus an additional \$5,000 to cover expenses related to the professional development of managers and staff who will assume extra responsibilities during leader's absence. Each of the 2010 sabbatical honorees has served in the nonprofit sector for at least 12 years and most have worked in their current roles as lead executives of health-focused organizations for many years without a significant

"These executives have worked selflessly for years in the nonprofit health sector, with little time for rest, reflection or rejuvenation," Sandra J. Martínez, TCWF program director, said. "By recognizing their leadership and supporting their organizations during the sabbaticals, the foundation is helping the safety net improve the health of diverse California communities, now and in the

The California Wellness Foundation is a private independent foundation created in 1992 with a mission to improve the health of the people of California by making grants for health promotion, wellness education and disease prevention. The foundation prioritizes eight issues for funding: diversity in the health professions, environmental health, healthy aging, mental health, teenage pregnancy prevention, violence prevention, women's health and work and health. It also responds to timely issues and special projects outside the funding priorities. Since its founding in 1992, TCWF has awarded 5,828 grants totaling more than \$735 million.

Amendment From Page A1

received education or services during the current fiscal year, as of Tuesday.

Fuller said it is imperative for children's dental health that a dentist examines them by their first birthday.

The BOS also proclaimed Feb. 20 to 26 as National Engineers Week in Lake County. Sixteen local engineers, including Water Resources Director Scott De Leon, stood as fellow engineer District

3 Supervisor Denise Rushing presented the proclamation. The BOS appointed civil engineer and interim Public Works Director G.R. Shaul as Lake County Road Commissioner. The BOS heard that the director's duties include that of road commissioner and that the state requires a public hearing be held before an individual is appointed road commissioner.

County staff requested

two items on Tuesday's agenda be carried over one week: the consideration of appointments to a Quality Assurance **Exploratory Committee** for the Lake County Sheriff's Office and a request to approve the lease of an office building on 13th Avenue in Lucerne for the Mental Health Department. Both items are scheduled for the March 1 regular BOS



Thursday 02/24/01

Transley 02/24/21

Renaissance dinner feast features music, pageantry



LOWER LAKE — The Lower Lake High School music program proudly presents a Renaissance dinner feast.

The menu features wassail cup, Pottage, English roasted turkey, sausage, string beans and sweets. Music, festivities, entertainment and pageantry are set to highlight the interactive event.

The two-day event takes place March 4 and 5 at Lower Lake High School in the multi-purpose room. Tickets cost \$25 per person for pre-sale and \$35 at the

Individuals or businesses wishing to support this noble endeavor with donations may contact Cydney Dixon at 994-6471 ext. 2779.