



Tickets now available

Lake County Theater Company will bring laughs and romance to the Weaver Auditorium starting Feb. 13 for the two-week run of John C. Holm's "Gramercy Ghost." See Page A12

Take Down

Kelseyville's Troy Davis works over a Willits wrestler during a 171-pound match on Wednesday at Middletown High School. See A5 for Sports



Lake County RECORD-BEE

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Thursday
January 22, 2009

Lakeport OKs land sell for cash for loans

Tiffany Revelle
Staff reporter

LAKEPORT - A plan aimed at helping Lakeport's small businesses got conceptual approval from the Lakeport Redevelopment Agency's board of directors Tuesday.

City of Lakeport Redevelopment Director Richard Knoll proposed that city sell some of its property to the agency and use part of the proceeds to expand its existing business loan program to include the Business Stabilization Loan Program. Knoll said unlike the existing loan program, expanded program would allow small businesses two years old or more to access working capitol with fewer strings attached.

"For every \$35,000 that is loaned, one job must be created. And those jobs have to be from the targeted income group population - the low and moderate income group," Knoll said, explaining how the existing program works.

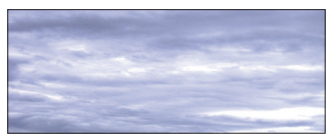
"That's hard to do right now," Councilman Jim Irwin said.

The board of directors, also the Lakeport City Council, voted 3-2 to approve the concept of the stabilization program, with council members Irwin and Susanne Lyons opposed.

"There are business entities here that are in real trouble and may go bankrupt or close their doors," Knoll wrote in a memo.

He said Lakeport would likely not get any money from federal and state

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Weather

Mostly Cloudy skies.

Highs: upper-50s.

Lows: mid-30s.

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Lake County Record-Bee

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Our 135th year



Photo by Tiffany Revelle

Clearlake resident Andrew Fowler, age 2, became the first child to use the new Library Park playground equipment after it was officially dedicated to the children of Lakeport during a Wednesday morning ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Time to Play...

\$28,000 in new play equipment for Library Park installed, ready for fun

Tiffany Revelle
Staff reporter

LAKEPORT - It's official. The newly installed playground equipment at Library Park is open for the serious business of childhood play after a ribbon-cutting ceremony Wednesday morning.

New York actor and former Calvin Klein underwear model Justin Lazard donated the \$28,000 Grand Teton playground equipment after visiting last year. Children have been able to play on the new equipment since mid-December, when city staff and Creative Playthings of Farmingham, Mass. finished installing it. Remarks at the ribbon-cutting ceremony were simple and to the point.

"We want to thank Justin Lazard

for his generous contribution," Lakeport Parks and Recreation Committee Commissioner Cindy Ustrud said.

The playground bears a bronze plaque that reads, "This playground is dedicated to the children of Lakeport, Ca, Creating Childhood Memories, Donated by Justin Lazard, 2008" and the company's name.

Ustrud and committee Chairwoman Lynn Andre were present to cut the ribbon at 11 a.m. Monday, marking the official opening. Clearlake resident Andrew Fowler, age 2, became the first playground patron after the ceremony.

Staff from Lakeport's Public Works Department and Parks Department helped install the

equipment during December's coldest temperatures in order to have the equipment ready by springtime.

"It was fun," Lakeport Public Works Foreman Bob Barthel said.

Lakeport Public Works Department and Parks Department employees Matt Hartzog, Chris Johnson, Andres Gonzales and Richard Lubeck also helped install the equipment.

Lakeport Public Works Leadsman Craig Timm said installation took approximately two weeks because of the weather and the time it took to haul an estimated 200 tons of sand out of the area surrounding the new equipment.

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Clearlake will discuss closing marijuana dispensaries

Denise Rockenstein
Staff reporter

CLEARLAKE - The Clearlake City Council will hear a recommendation today to prohibit medical marijuana operations in the city and to close the three existing medical marijuana dispensaries on grounds that they are in violation of the city's zoning regulations.

The recommendation is being brought forth by City Administrator Dale Neiman and Chief of Police Alan McClain. The issue is the fourth item of business on the city council's agenda following public comment and consent calendar. The meeting will begin at 6 p.m. The city's legal representative is expected to be present.

The city issued the moratorium on April 13, 2007, imposing a temporary 45-day prohibition on the establishment of new medical marijuana dispensaries. In May 2007, the moratorium was extended to 10 months and 15 days. The moratorium had originally prohibited the renewal of existing businesses licenses for medical marijuana dispensaries as well; however, in August 2007, the council decided to grant renewals of such licenses.

According to the staff report that originally accompanied the moratorium, it was established to allow city staff time to establish zoning regulations pertaining to medical marijuana dispensaries; however, no zoning regulations have yet been established. It was also the council's intention at the time the moratorium was implemented to sidestep the issue until it was resolved in federal courts.

In April 2008, the council allowed a moratorium to expire and decided to rely on Clearlake Municipal Code 6-3.6, which states that "The issuance of a license under this section shall not entitle the licensee to engage in any or do any, which, for any reason, is in violation of any federal, state, or municipal law, rule, or regulation." Wording of the section has brought up a question as to whether or not the city has the obligation or the right to enforce federal laws.

In December 2008 the U.S. Supreme Court refused to review a decision of the California state courts who found that its medical marijuana law was not preempted by federal law. According to city staff, this decision makes it more difficult for the city to rely on prohibiting medical marijuana dispensaries using the provision in the city code that requires compliance with federal law.

The council will be presented with four alternatives in terms of medical marijuana operations, which are reportedly based on court decisions to date. The first alternative is to prohibit all medical marijuana dispensaries based on health and safety concerns and take legal action to close the three dispensaries currently operating in the city using public nuisance provisions because the operations violate the city's zoning regulations.

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Lakeport's Lost Boys hold free performance at Konocti Harbor

Denise Rockenstein
Staff reporter

KELSEYVILLE - Konocti Presents ... and Promoter Greg Bennett are pleased to announce a free showcase performance by The Lost Boys, Sunday, Jan. 25 in the Classic Concert Showroom at Konocti Harbor Resort & Spa. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.; concert at 7 p.m.

"There is just this energy about them that makes you think that they could be one of those special bands," Bennett said. "They are really musi-

cally gifted and they have great passion for what they do as young 17-year-olds. Each time you see them you can feel huge steps in their progress as a band."

The Lost Boys are a young, budding band hailing from Lakeport. Members range in age from 15 to 17 years of age. The boys are excited to be given this opportunity to entertain their fans and introduce some of their

Sunday, Jan. 25
7:00 p.m.

new music locally.

"This is the biggest opportunity we've ever gotten. It's really cool," guitarist Beau Bastian, 16, said.

"Ever since I started playing guitar I always thought if I got good enough, maybe I would get to play at Konocti and here we are. I can't even say how much we appreciate Greg Bennett for giving us this chance to get our music out there."

A common love and passion for

music brought the five boys together. They say that they have all been best friend all of their lives, which makes it easy for them to collaborate musically. "We're best friends so were around each other all the time. We play music together every day, even in school," Jordan Mills, 17, who has been playing drums since he was four, said.

"We've grown up with each other so it's like we just read each other and that really comes out in our music. A

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