

Briefly

Tie-dyed shirts raise funds for leukemia

Local residents are invited to tie-dye a T-shirt and help raise money to fight leukemia at the same time. Moira Delgado of Davis is offering the art project to raise funds for leukemia, lymphoma and myeloma research and patient services. T-shirts and tie-dye materials will be available from 4 to 8 p.m. Wednesday at Picnic in the Park in Central Park, Fourth and C streets. A donation of \$10 to \$15 for children's shirts and \$15 for \$20 for adult shirts is suggested. All proceeds will go to the Leukemia Society. For more information, contact Delgado at moiradelgado@yahoo.com or 753-9782. Donations may be made online at www.active.com/donate/tntsac/moira.

Many things going on at St. Martin's

At St. Martin's Episcopal Church, 640 Hawthorn Lane, two services are offered on Sunday: 7:45 (Rite I) and 10 a.m. (contemporary/family). Open Eucharist (Communion) is available at all services. Sunday school will resume in the fall. St. Martin's is remodeling a home in Davis on Sept. 29 and 30 in conjunction with Rebuilding Together of Sacramento, a nonprofit organization dedicated to rehabilitating housing for elderly, low-income or disabled clients. Call the church office at 756-0444 to volunteer labor or building supplies. All women and girls are invited to the Women's Ministries Gathering Day at Trinity Cathedral in Sacramento on Aug. 25. Call (916) 725-1194 to register. Living the Questions, a progressive alternative for Christian formation, is a small group study coming to St. Martin's in the fall for those who find their faith leaves them with more questions than answers? Sign up at church or call the church office.

Every Tuesday at 12:10 p.m., the healing service offers midweek renewal and communion, with laying on of hands, prayers and anointing. For more information call 756-0444 or visit www.churchofstmartin.org.

Preschool accepting fall enrollment

Ann's Nursery School, at 2121 Second St., Suite C-101, is accepting enrollment for fall. The school offers activities for 3- through 5-year-olds in math, science, small motor/manipulative, blocks, language and music/movement. The nursery school offers programs from 9 a.m. to noon and from 1 to 4 p.m. There are openings in the Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoon program. For more information, or to schedule a visit, call 758-4444.

Agreement aims to aid vanishing species

By Cory Golden

ENTERPRISE STAFF WRITER

A plan unveiled this week will help Yolo County growers lend a hand to two threatened species while maintaining their farms.

The proposed safe harbor agreement between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Audubon California will cover 200,000 acres of riparian habitat in the county for the giant garter snake and valley elderberry longhorn beetle. Both species have dwindled due to loss of habitat and are protected under the federal endangered species act.

Under the plan, farmers who agree to manage their land in ways benefiting the species will be assured that more restrictions will not be imposed upon them, and that they will not be held liable for accidentally killing or injuring a protected animal during habitat restoration or normal farming.

For the garter snake, the pact would mean farmers would provide adequate water from early spring through mid-fall and maintain vegetation for cover and habitat. For the beetle, it would include planting elderberry bushes where appropriate and fostering existing bushes.

"What we've found is that farmers and ranchers in California respect wildlife and want to do what they can to conserve it," said Al Donner of the Fish and Wildlife Service's Sacramento Office.

But landowners have long voiced frustration about the Endangered Species Act, complaining it actually discouraged conservation. Many have been reluctant to do anything that might attract protected species for fear they will lose control

over their property.

Partnering with landowners is a pressing issue: by some estimates, 80 percent of endangered or threatened species live on private land.

Safe harbor agreements have traditionally been made with individual landowners. More recently, however, Fish and Wildlife has embarked on efforts to enter into pacts covering wider areas. A year ago, the first such agreement in the Central Valley was made in order to protect 20 miles of beetle habitat along the Mokelumne River near Lodi.

In Yolo County, the agency is sorting out the details with Audubon California and Sustainable Conservation. The nonprofit organizations are responsible for putting the agreement together with Fish and Wildlife and providing a baseline accounting of habitat for the species. Then, landowners can decide whether to sign on.

Tuesday's announcement opened a 30-day public comment period on the plan.

Vance Russell of Audubon's Winters-based Landowner Stewardship Program said that it will be another tool that can be used for conservation on private land and for demonstrating how landowners can aid in species recovery.

He noted that the proposed agreement received positive reviews from a number of local agricultural opinion leaders to whom it was shown, including the Yolo County Farm Bureau.

"Many farmers and ranchers may do restoration projects whether they sign up for the safe harbor or not, but signing up provides a sort of insurance policy if you will," Russell said. "A nice



U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE PHOTOS

Valley elderberry longhorn beetles would have their habitat protected by farmers, thanks to a proposed agreement.



For the giant garter snake, the pact would mean farmers would provide adequate water from early spring through mid-fall and maintain vegetation for cover and habitat.

component of this is neighbors to projects benefiting these species can sign up as well and be covered."

Donner said that landowners who sign on may also qualify for small grants to help pay for conservation projects.

Should the effort take hold, it would provide a striking contrast with what may be quietly hap-

pening just across the river in Sacramento County.

This week the Sacramento Bee reported that landowners in the Natomas Basin interested in someday developing are halting rice production there — allowing fields to go fallow or shifting to crops that need little or no irrigation — because they don't want their land viewed as valuable

habitat for the garter snake and other species.

Russell said that while he wasn't completely familiar with that situation, his organization remains committed to protecting both farmland and wildlands from what he called "inappropriate development that threatens the future of California's amazing agricultural economy and biodiversity."

"(This) agreement shows the positive benefits that can happen through innovative partnerships among the agricultural (community), nonprofit (organizations) and government agencies when we truly try to address these issues," he said.

The unveiling of the safe harbor plan is the second major announcement this week for Audubon California.

Also on Tuesday, the nonprofit announced a deal to acquire the 6,800-acre Bobcat Ranch in western Yolo County. The organization plans to continue the restoration work it began there in 2003 with partners the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Center for Land-Based Learning's SLEWS program. The latter teaches students about conservation.

To view the proposed Yolo safe harbor agreement, see www.fws.gov/sacramento/Partnerships/Documents/Yolo_Audubon_PSHA_draft_July_07.pdf

Written comments may be submitted through Sept. 13 to: Shannon Holbrook, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2800 Cottage Way, W-2605, Sacramento, CA 95825, or by fax to (916) 414-6712.

— Reach Cory Golden at cgolden@davisenterprise.net or 747-8046.

School district, UCD begin again on West Village

By Jeff Hudson

ENTERPRISE STAFF WRITER

Representatives of UC Davis talked with the Davis school board about a possible educational partnership at the University's West Village development on Thursday night — and the outcome of the discussion might be summarized as "definitely maybe, someday."

The university will begin initial infrastructure improvements for West Village sometime next year.

The project ultimately will include 500 homes for UC Davis faculty and staff, accommodations for 3,000 UC Davis students, and a Sacramento City College education center, which will eventually serve about 9,000 community college students.

West Village is expected to produce about 176 elementary school students, 80 junior high students, and 77 high school students, who will enroll in the Davis school district.

During the early phases of West Village planning, between 2000 and 2003, university and school district representatives met to discuss how to "mitigate" for the impact of those new students on the Davis school district.

Initially, a small elementary

campus was considered. Later, the focus shifted to a satellite high school campus — perhaps a home for the Da Vinci High School program.

But no formal agreement came out of those discussions, and no plan was adopted by the Davis school board. There haven't been any discussions between the university and the school district during the past four years.

The West Village issue finally came back into focus at Thursday night's school board meeting. John Meyer, vice chancellor of resource management at UCD, spoke warmly of "re-engagement" with the school district.

The discussion might have been described as going back to square one. Since 2003, there has been 100 percent turnover among the school district's top administrators and a nearly complete turnover among school board trustees.

The trustees listened intently to Meyer's presentation, but indicated they aren't ready to decide what shape a partnership at West Village might take — much less determine how construction might be paid for.

"We don't have any money in our facilities fund at this time," trustee Jim Provenza said.

"I think the conclusion that we

don't need an elementary school at West Village is a safe assumption," said trustee Keltie Jones. The school district's enrollment is declining, and the school board

voted in March to close Valley Oak Elementary.

After some discussion, the school board instructed staff to stay in touch with UCD about

West Village, and to consider a West Village partnership as part of the long-range facilities planning process that the school district will soon begin.

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Superintendent may be named next week

By Jeff Hudson

ENTERPRISE STAFF WRITER

The Davis school board is getting close to hiring a new superintendent, and the announcement could come sometime next week.

"We are making progress," school board president Jim Provenza said at Thursday night's school board meeting. "We had 33 applications. ... We have narrowed that down to one extremely good candidate. The ink (on a contract) is not dry, but we expect to be able to finalize things" soon, perhaps as early as Wednesday evening.

Provenza indicated the announcement likely will come during a special meeting of the school board.

The search for a new superintendent began in March, when longtime Davis Superintendent David Murphy announced his retirement. He was replaced a few days later by interim Superintendent J. Richard Whitmore.

The Davis school board then hired a head hunter — Leadership Associates — to help recruit candidates for the job.

The field of 33 applicants was larger than anticipated — "more (applicants) than any other school district that Leadership

Associates searched for in the past year," Provenza said.

Originally, the school board had hoped to announce a new superintendent in early August.

"Richard Whitmore has very graciously stayed with us a little longer than planned," Provenza said, adding that "the selection of a superintendent is probably the most important function of any school board. The person at the top is very important in giving direction and making everything run smoothly."

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