

State earns mixed results in tobacco policy report card

Staff reports

RICHMOND — American Lung Association in California (ALAC) joined civic leaders, medical professionals and local residents of the city of Richmond to release its annual State of Tobacco

Control report card for cities and counties throughout the state of California. Municipalities were graded on their ordinances covering smokefree outdoor environments, smokefree housing and tobacco sales reductions. The ALAC report coincides with the release of the State of Tobacco Control 2009 national report card that grades the federal government, all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Citing mixed results at every level for the state, ALAC President and CEO Jane Warner said, "It's time to raise the grade. For all Californians, strong tobacco control policies must be a top priority."

Once a national leader in battling the lethal effects of tobacco, California again received an F for the state's failure to adequately fund tobacco prevention and control programs, currently at less than one-fifth the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention-recommended level. While the report gave California high marks for state laws that protect the public from secondhand smoke in enclosed public places and workplaces, the state received D's for its failure to raise the tobacco tax and provide cessation treatment and services to help people quit smoking. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, California now ranks 32nd for its \$.87 per pack tax, far below the national average of \$1.34. A full copy of the national report is available at www.stateoftobaccocontrol.org. With nearly 4 million smokers in California, tobacco use continues to take a significant toll on public health and taxpayer dollars. Tobacco remains the number one preventable cause of death in California, claiming an estimated 36,684 lives annually. That's more people lost to tobacco use than alcohol, HIV/AIDS, car crashes, illegal drugs, murders and suicides combined. For the state, the costs of tobacco use top more than \$18 billion every year.

Fortunately, many individual communities are making headway on this critical issue. More than 370 cities across California have been graded on (1) Smokefree Outdoor Air; (2) Smokefree Housing; and (3) Reducing Sales of Tobacco Products. These three grades have been averaged for one overall local tobacco control grade.

"The stakes are too high to gamble with complacency," said Warner. "We're here in Richmond to highlight what can be — and has been — done when awareness is combined with commitment. In one year, Richmond enacted ordinances to raise its grades from F's and D's in all categories to straight A's, offering real protection to the people who live, work and play here."

Richmond now also boasts the strongest smokefree housing ordinance in the nation, prohibiting smoking in 100 percent of all multi-unit housing, some 34 percent of all housing in the city.

Richmond is among four cities receiving an overall A grade, including other first-time recipients Albany and Calabasas, and joining last year's sole recipient Glendale. Twenty-four cities and counties received A's for smokefree outdoor air regulations, six earned A's for smokefree housing and 60 obtained A's for reducing sales of tobacco products. While many other cities and counties around the state adopted strong tobacco control policies and improved their grades, a majority of municipalities are failing to protect their residents from the dangers of secondhand smoke in outdoor environments and multi-unit housing. In total, 271 cities and county unincorporated areas received an F for their overall grade. Complete report cards for all 373 cities and 34 counties may be accessed at www.californialung.org/raisethegrade along with complete scoring criteria.

"Like so many issues in California, local communities are leading the way. We are hopeful that state and local leaders can learn from these grades and the tobacco control efforts of others around the state," added Warner. "The American Lung Association will continue to work with state and local leaders and advocates to pass effective tobacco control policies and raise the grades." ALAC is working tirelessly to improve California's grades. The American Lung Association in California is co-sponsoring the California Cancer Research Act, a November 2010 ballot initiative that will raise the state's cigarette tax by \$1.00 per pack and fund cancer research and tobacco prevention and control programs.

Lost Boys to perform live on 'CBS This Morning' program Friday



File photo by Mandy Feder/LAKE COUNTY PUBLISHING

Aside from headlining the opening night ceremonies at a major music festival, the Lost Boys of Lake County will perform three songs live on 'CBS This Morning' on Friday.

Staff reports

PARK CITY, UT — Aside from headlining the opening night ceremonies at a major music festival, the Lost Boys of Lake County will perform three songs live on "CBS This Morning" on Friday.

The Lost Boys will appear at 5:50, 6:50 and 7:50 a.m. during the three-hour broadcast and perform three songs live, while conducting interviews along the way.

A variety of flavors of music will treat audiences and music industry leaders at the inaugural Orion Independent Music Festival, taking place from Friday through Wednesday.

Seeking to revolutionize the music business, the festival provides exposure to unsigned music acts in a similar way the Sundance Film Festival does for filmmakers. The festivals will complement each other, as they occur during back-to-back weeks.

During the Orion Independent Music Festival, artists will perform in several venues throughout Park City's historic Main Street. Music genres include, rock, pop, jazz, R&B, lounge, country, and hip-hop. All performances are open to the public.

Opening ceremonies will be held Friday at 8 p.m. at Park City's historic Egyptian Theater. Park City Mayor Dana Williams will welcome festival attendees, industry insiders, and 50 artists from five countries to the Orion Music Festival. The festivities will begin with short video presen-

tations of each artist, followed by three artists, each performing one acoustic song.

The award winning, teen rock band from Lakeport, the Lost Boys, have been selected to headline the opening ceremonies and will close the show with the night's only electric set, performing "Cloud 9, Why Not Us and I'm Not Popular," while officially marking the beginning of the Orion Music Festival.

The Lost Boys are USA4real artists, receiving heavy airplay on Upstream Radio, and are recent two category winners of the USA4real voters poll as USA4real

best live performance in 2009 and best pop/rock newbee USA4real Artist, as voted on by USA4real artists and fans, worldwide. The Lost Boys open its "Why Not Us ... North American Tour 2010 at the Orion Music Festival, on the heels of a successful 2009 touring year, having performed as special guests for 19 major headliners, including 3 Doors Down, Kelly Clarkson, All-American Rejects, Journey, Tim McGraw and Toby Keith.

The Lost Boys are also confirmed to play Mojo's Caffe & Gallery in Ogden on Friday, Studio 600 in Salt Lake City on Saturday, The Grand

Ballroom in the historic Ben Lomond Suites Hotel in Ogden on Sunday, Maxwell's in Park City on Monday, and Doolan's Sports Bar & Grill in Park City on Tuesday with more shows expected to be added.

The Orion Independent Music Festival will be a convergence of industry professionals from record labels and Internet marketing companies who are seeking cutting-edge talent and fans looking to broaden musical horizons.

For more Orion Music Festival information go to www.orionmusicfestival.com.