

# Pair says every day is Valentine's Day

By **Chuck Anderson**  
Press-Banner

Who better to demonstrate love and compassion than Annie Sprinkle and Elizabeth Stephens of Boulder Creek?

Sprinkle is a soft-spoken homemaker with an easy smile who wields a mean crock pot, but back in the 1970s and '80s, she was an adult film star and author of the popular "Dr. Sprinkle's Spectacular Sex."

Doctor? Yes, she holds a Ph.D. in human sexuality.

Stephens, an activist art professor, chairs the art department at University of California, Santa Cruz. She uses fine art and performance art to shine a light on conflict and inequities and to express love.

Together, they have embarked on a seven-year-

## At a glance

- **MORE:** Visit [www.loveartlab.org](http://www.loveartlab.org), the online site of Annie Sprinkle and Elizabeth Stephens's seven-year-long project that explores love as art
- **CAUTION:** The Web site contains some photos and artwork with partial nudity, suggestive poses and bawdy humor

long project, the Love Art Laboratory. It involves various means to explore love as art, including theater works, performance art, films, lectures, visual art, print and activism.

Love Art Lab also is the name of their cottage, where a little heart adorns the roadside mailbox and a small sign suggests that angels are in the vicinity.

The pair's project started in 2005.

"When the war in Afghanistan broke out, we were

deeply disturbed," Sprinkle said. "We decided to do a love project about conflict resolution, since we're against violence and war."

Same-sex marriage also was a hot topic at that time, and Sprinkle said she and Stephens had planned to solemnize their relationship in San Francisco just before the state Supreme Court declared such marriages unconstitutional.

**LOVE ART,** CONTINUED ON PAGE

**TWO HEARTS:** Elizabeth Stephens (left) and Annie Sprinkle, a Boulder Creek couple, sport matching tattoos with each other's names. Since 2005, they've worked on a seven-year art project exploring love and conflict resolution, Love Art Laboratory.

Lucjan Szweczyk/Press-Banner



## 'We love our schools'

Letter-writing gathering showcases young talent as budget cuts loom

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The state's \$14 billion financial crisis could mean devastating cuts in funding for Scotts Valley's public schools, and to fight back, students and community leaders are organizing a letter-writing event on Valentine's Day.

Scotts Valley gets \$5,751 per student annually in state money, though some K-12 districts get \$6,321. The funding formula hasn't been revised since the 1970s, when the cost of living was lower. If cuts

are made as proposed, Scotts Valley would lose about \$800,000 per year, \$300 per student.

District Trustee Jondi Gumz is working with Gene Scothorn, former owner of Civil Consultants Group, to organize a plan to enlighten and entertain the community.

We Love Our Schools will give working people, busi-

ness owners, parents and grandparents an opportunity to learn more about the

budget proposal and write letters to make their voices heard in Sacramento. Folks will gather from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 14, at the Scotts Valley Community Center.

"I want to collect 1,000 letters to send to our Sacramento representa-

*"We'll put those letters in a big box with a heart on it, and I hope they'll get the message."*

— **Jondi Gumz**  
Scotts Valley Unified School District trustee

tives," Gumz said. "We'll put those letters in a big box with a heart on it, and I hope they get the message."

Entertainment will be provided by young singers and musicians from the community. Most are attending Scotts Valley schools or are alumni now in college; some have been coached by local music teacher Bobbie Lynne Ward.

Performers include Hannah Torchio, 12; Annika Bridges, Jared Fujishin, and Drew Quinn, all from Scotts Valley High School; Stanzy Childs, a student

at Bethany University; and Ruth Gonzalez, a student at San Jose State University and former Miss Santa Cruz County.

Vincent Giannotti, a senior at Scotts Valley High School, will serve as emcee, and Dayna Bowen, a 2005 graduate, is overseeing decorations.

Sharolynn Ullestad, executive director of the Scotts Valley Chamber of Commerce, has offered to alert chamber members. Business owners agreed to spread the word among their customers.