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Make A Difference banquet will honor locals

By JESSICA WAMBACH

YAKIMA HERALD-REPUBLIC

YAKIMA – The Southeast Yakima Community Center will honor a few local people and one organization for improving the lives of people in the Yakima Valley at its 10th annual Make A Difference banquet Friday.

Tickets are still available for the banquet, which will honor Bill and Rhonda Dolsen, Yakima Neighborhood Health Services, and Linda Iasella for their commitment to making Yakima a safer and healthier place.

A limited number of tickets will be available at the door. They also can be purchased in advance by calling the community center. Admission is \$25 per person and includes dinner and a featured talk by Henry Beauchamp, a former Yakima mayor who is now the executive director of the Opportunity Industrialization Center of Washington.

Proceeds from the tickets will benefit the after-school programs the community center runs at its own facility as well as Hoover and Barge-Lincoln elementary schools in Yakima, said Adrienne Garner, program coordinator at the community center.

"We honor people each year that make a difference in the community and the lives of children and families," Garner said.

The Dolsens were selected for the award because of their role in developing the Citizens for Safe Yakima Communities, a group of more than 200 people searching for solutions to community crime problems.

Yakima Neighborhood Health Services will be honored for delivering health care to low-income and uninsured people in the Yakima area since 1975. The organization now serves more than 500 patients a day in its clinics throughout the Valley.

The committee chose Iasella because she has volunteered at Davis High School for 11 years, helped organize the local annual Day of Prayer, and been involved with finding answers to community issues like graffiti, curfews and crime.

WHAT: Tenth annual Make A Difference Banquet

WHERE: Southeast Yakima Community Center, 1211 S. Seventh St. in Yakima

WHEN: Friday 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

COST: \$25 a person, proceeds benefit after-school children's programs

INFORMATION: call 575-6114.

