

There is something special about the cool, crisp season we are now entering: Yes, I'm talking about winter, and more: for some it's associated with Hannukah, the Festival of lights; for others, Advent: the season of celebrating the arrival of Jesus in a tiny stall in Bethlehem; still others Kwanza or winter solstice. One of the wintry sports that used to make the season extra special for me is ice skating. <sup>(wonder snow days)</sup> Now, don't get me wrong, I am a lousy ice skater, but I have many fond memories of ice skating: for example, as a little kid with ankles collapsing in and out, spending more time on butt than my skates ... Decades later, I got to spend about 7 winters in Europe: I hold fond memories of skating with the family at the Dolder Sports Complex in Zürich, Switzerland. Memories of breathing the clean, crisp winter air <sup>hitting you in face</sup> while gliding on slippery ice, trying to keep balance and control of my body so as not to go kersplat! Other times I cherish memories of skating at The High Camp at Squaw Valley, or lower down at the Resort. <sup>So,</sup>

When I moved to Eureka 25 years ago I was deeply displeased to hear that there is no ice rink anywhere in Humboldt County. Through the years I've dreamed of turning some of our vacant buildings, like K-Mart into an ice rink. <sup>for the youth of the county</sup> ~~our area.~~

Last Saturday, I was saddened to read the front page news of former President, George HW Bush's <sup>Dad's</sup> death. But I was gladdened to read on the back page of the first section, this bold headline: **Ice Rink Opens at County Fairgrounds.**

I am thrilled to hear that ice skating is for now an option in Humboldt County. Where? at our County Fairgrounds in Ferndale. Belotti Hall: I've spent a lot of time in <sup>the</sup> various halls of the Fairgrounds at events like Cursillo, and so I can hardly imagine a better sound coming out of that Hall than the voices of kids having fun circling the ice rink. Why am I so enthused about ice skating? Because our county offers all sorts of movie houses and video games for kids—but few <sup>available</sup> outdoor activities like roller skating or ice skating. The pernicious effects of too much time spent indoors watching the glare of TV, phones or computer screens is finally getting some well deserved criticism... So pull those kids out of the house and get them skating while you can. The Humboldt Ice Rink is only open until January 6<sup>th</sup>.

~~The hours are basically 10am - 8pm, with a few nights open until 10:00pm. To get a precise schedule go online to [humboldtcicerink.com](http://humboldtcicerink.com). Cost if 12\$ for adults and 8\$ for children. Yes that includes skates.~~

~~Teachers and youth group leaders, if you want to bring a class, contact the ice rink at [humboldtcicerink@gmail.com](mailto:humboldtcicerink@gmail.com).~~

Who knows, there may be a budding young champion skater from Humboldt some day: A Scott Hamilton, Michele Kwan or Dorothy Hamill.

Would it not be great to see that rink opened all-year-round? If you are interested in donating some time, or money, or both to such a project, please contact me at [dprice2345@aol.com](mailto:dprice2345@aol.com). I'd like to hear from you.

This has been Dan Price for Community Comment