



Richard Stulen

New Leader For Sandia in Livermore

Sandia President and Labs Director Tom Hunter announced last week that Richard (Rick) Stulen will assume leadership of Sandia's California laboratory. Rick replaces Paul Hommert, who recently assumed the role of Executive Vice President and deputy director for the Nuclear Weapons Strategic Management Group, based at Sandia's Albuquerque, N.M., headquarters. Rick's transition to Vice President of Sandia's California site in Livermore will likely occur in early June.

"We are pleased to announce this change to Sandia's executive leadership team," says Hunter. "Rick Stulen is an outstanding member of Sandia's executive management team and among the acknowledged leaders in the national security community. In his new role, he will continue to provide significant value to the national security work we do at Sandia."

Rick has been with Sandia since 1976 and currently serves as chief technical officer and Vice President of Science and Technology & Research Foundations. He resides in Livermore.

Help Peter Pan to Fly

In fantasy a little sprinkle of pixie dust is all you need to fly, however, in the real world you need cold hard cash. "Peter Pan" is a timeless classic. Tri-Valley Repertory Theater is putting together a summer production featuring first-rate sets, costumes, and of course, flight training.

TVRT has secured the world famous ZFX Inc. to provide it with full service flying equipment, training and effects. This means more than just ticket sales. To help pay for this, TVRT is launching a "Help Peter Fly" campaign!

Watch the Pixie Dust level grow weekly as donations fill Tinkerbell's bottle. A "bottle" will be available in the lobby of the Bankhead Theater during "A Chorus Line," as well as in the Studio Theatre lobby throughout the run of "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolfe."

Representatives of TVRT will be at the Livermore Wine Country Festival on May 2nd and 3rd with a "bottle."

Alameda County Has Most Solar Installations

Alameda County has more total watts of solar installations than any other county in the Bay Area-18.1 megawatts. For that reason, the county has received a City Solar Award from the Northern California Solar Energy Association (NorCal Solar). The award goes to cities and counties, including residents, businesses, and municipal governments, for the total amount of solar installations within their borders.

The award, presented at the (See SOLAR, page 12)



The Independent's Section II features a story about the upcoming Bras for the Cause walk in Pleasanton. Readers will also find arts and entertainment, the bulletin board and information about school activities.

'Plant a Garden' for Open Heart Kitchen

Open Heart Kitchen (OHK) is launching a new program, "Plant a Garden for Open Heart Kitchen."

Wendy Weathers, the new operations manager at OHK, attended Monday's Livermore City Council meeting to announce the program. "We like to serve our clients fresh produce," she explained.

Livermore Mayor Marshall Kamena said, "That's a great idea. If people just plant a few extra seeds, they can really add up."

In an interview after the meet-

ing, Weathers stated, "Many people have extra produce, such as tomatoes and zucchini. We will be happy to take them off their hands. We love tomatoes. Zucchini can be used for so many different things. If when planting a garden, people would put in one extra plant for OHK, that would be a kind gesture."

Open Heart Kitchen serves hot meals that are made from scratch by volunteers and served from several locations Monday through Friday to anyone in need. There is always a green salad in-

gredients with the meal. However, Weathers said, there aren't always enough tomatoes or other types of fresh items to add variety to the salad.

OHK will take any type of produce. There is refrigerated storage space available.

Weathers pointed out that there are orange trees that people are just letting go. "If people need help harvesting, we have many volunteers who would be willing to do so."

The oranges are perfect for the box lunch program. The lunches

are provided to students who take them home. They are about two meals. "Sometimes those are the only meals these kids will have," said Weathers.

She said there has been an increase in demand for meals. "We are seeing middle class people who have never been to a soup kitchen in their lives. OHK is up to about 10,000 meals a month. Service has doubled at some locations. It's all due to the economy and high unemployment, according to Weathers."

Those who are interested in

donating produce can call Weathers at 580-6793. She will provide donors with a location where they can drop-off items. If help is needed in harvesting, call the volunteer coordinator, Geneal Williams at 580-1619. Weathers said Williams can put a group together. Many are willing to work weekends. In addition to fresh produce, Weathers said there is always a need for canned goods. People can drop off canned items at the Amador Theater or library in

Pleasanton, at Asbury Methodist Church on East Avenue in Livermore Tuesday and Wednesday, and at Crosswinds Church on Sierra Court in Dublin. Monetary donations to Open Heart Kitchen can be sent to: Open Heart Kitchen, 1141 Catalina Drive #137, Livermore, CA, 94550. For information about how to contribute to Open Heart Kitchen, call the Executive Director Wendy Weathers at 925-580-6793.



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Union Pacific's No. 844 steam engine rolled into the Bay Area last week. Crowds gathered between Pleasanton and Sunol, where No. 844 met two other steam engines. No. 2472 is a Pacific Class engine owned by the Golden Gate Railroad Museum and Tanker No. 3 belongs to the Pacific Locomotive Association, which operates trains out of Sunol. The No. 844 was UP's last new steam engine, built in 1944.

'Climate Prosperity' Seen as the New Economy

By Ron McNicoll

Amid society's worries about economic downturn and climate change, Marc Weiss is offering a new path for society. He calls it "climate prosperity."

Weiss is an international consultant who advises governments and businesses on how to create sustainability in their economies. He is executive editor of Global Urban Development, an on-line magazine. The web address is www.globalurban.org.

Weiss spoke to people who gathered April 25 in the quad at Amador Valley High School for

the school district's second annual ecology fair.

Weiss outlined the simple history of world economics in two stages. The first was a sustainable planet, with no modern industry, which occurred up until the 19th century. Environmental damage was minimal. Most of the economy was simple trade and farming.

Along came the spread of industrialization, and with it, severe pollution and consumption of finite resources. World population expanded significantly, growing rapidly, and going from

2 or 3 billion in 1950 to more than 6 billion in 2000. Development set a high standard of living in industrialized nations.

Now the "underdeveloped nations, also known as the Third World, are poised to catch up. However, it's clear there are not enough resources on the planet to provide the U.S. standard of living for everyone on the globe, said Weiss. So the key to bringing about a high level of consumer goods will be the third stage: climate prosperity.

The Third World will be able to skip the unsustainable

economy that the West has had, and move on to the new economy of recycled resources and alternative power, said Weiss. Both East and West will be arriving at climate prosperity by reusing materials and switching from fossil fuels to the alternatives. The key is to shift people's consciousness, by "seeing things just a little bit differently," said Weiss.

SILICON VALLEY LOVES THE IDEA
Business leaders in Silicon Valley already get this, said (See ECONOMY, page 12)

Historic Ranch Home to Hoofprints on the Heart

The Livermore City Council okayed the extension of a contract to purchase the historic Hagemann Ranch. The purchase would help to provide a place where Hoofprints on the Heart would have a permanent home.

Hoofprints on the Heart is an adaptive riding program for disabled adults and children.

Livermore entered into the original agreement to acquire the farm in 2007. At that time no tenant was occupying the property. In 2008, Hoofprints on the Heart moved to the farm in exchange for maintaining the property.

Hagemann Farm is of historic significance. It includes a remnant of the original 60,000 acre Rancho el Valle de San Jose land grant awarded in 1838 to the Bernal, Sunol and Pico families. The farm on Olivina Avenue is the last remaining five acres of the original property.

The council heard from representatives of Hoofprints on the Heart as to the importance of the program.

Elizabeth Dahlman has a daughter who was born with cerebral palsy and other disabilities. She is non-verbal. "It has been the most amazing program for her," said Dahlman referring to horseback riding. "She was in a wheelchair, which she had to take to school. Now she doesn't have to take the wheelchair. She steps onto the bus. All that change took place in six months. Horseback riding has made that difference."

"It's the best thing in the world to see the joy on my daughter's face when we arrive at the farm for the program," declared Dahlman.

Pat Murray is a volunteer for the program. She said when she began she had no clue about spe-

(See HOOFPRIENTS, page 4)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Riders race through the scenic wine country during the Wente Vineyards Classic Road Race held last Saturday in Livermore.

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PET OF THE WEEK

Ryder is a rambunctious Dachshund mix with energy to spare. He wants to run, play, and repeat. He is looking for a family that can keep up with him! To meet Ryder, visit Valley Humane Society, 3670 Nevada Street in Pleasanton, Saturdays from 10AM to 2PM. Visit the web site www.valleyhumane.org or call 925-426-8656 for more information. Buy your Hidden Gardens of the Valley Tour tickets today and help support homeless pets like Ryder! Tickets are available on the web site.