

Junior Football League, and YMCA Basketball. He currently coaches wrestling at Amador Valley High School.

Hamilton said he decided to seek the council seat after he was approached by a school board member who suggested he run. He declared, "I bring an independent view. I have no ties to real estate or development. I would bring a common man approach to issues."

He added that he lives and works in Pleasanton. He understands local businesses. "I would work to bring in new businesses." He proposes working with Silicon Valley companies looking to relocate to bring them to Pleasanton. To help keep businesses, Hamilton would like to understand why some leave the city to relocate to other areas. His goal would be to fill empty buildings with companies new to the city and local companies looking to expand.

He said that he is committed to further streamline city processes to support careful planning to grow the economy and the creation of higher wage technology oriented jobs. "This will increase city tax revenue and bring important high wage jobs to the city. In addition, more shopping opportunities would bring more people to

executive officer for i-GATE (Innovation for Green Advanced Transportation Excellence) in Livermore.

Livermore Mayor John Marchand said that Spirgi, who has been on the job for about a month, will replace Rob White. Details of Spirgi's contract are still

Marchand. "I am very excited to see him coming on board."

Prior to i-GATE, Thomas worked at Solyndra, a Photovoltaic Manufacturing company.

At Solyndra, Spirgi worked as Director of En-
(See i-GATE, page 4)

Non-profit Career Center Focuses on Educating Clients

A non-profit career center in Pleasanton has been keeping costs low for job-seekers, and has taught them a variety of skills, including how to act during a job interview.

Many of the clients at Hand 'n Hand Career Training center are younger people, who are looking for certain certificates that are job-related. Other clients have ranged in age as high as 74 years old, said founder Sue Bartolotti.

The spread in educational achievement ranges from people who are just out of high school to those who hold Ph.D's. One physicist with a doctorate did not require any job training, but he definitely wanted to develop his interviewing skills.

The physicist took the five-day course in interviewing and resume writing. Some older clients, who have been in one job for a long time, are not even

(See CAREER, page 4)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Students work with vacuum technology to expand and shrink a marshmallow. The No. California Chapter American Vacuum Society provided the equipment.

Students Have Fun with Science

By Carol Graham

For the record, Daddy takes more steps than Mommy each week, baby chicks breathe through their eggshells, guitars are the

best instrument for getting baby brother to sleep, and inexpensive sunscreen works just as well as pricier brands.

These were just some of the questions answered

at Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District's 11th annual Science Odyssey held at Junction K-8 School on February 28th.

(See ODYSSEY, page 8)

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PET OF THE WEEK

Lizz has a kind soul and is eager to please her new forever family. She came to the adoption center last May as a teen mom with two kittens of her own. Soon after intake, her babies were adopted and she was left alone. Lizz has formed a tough shell during her long stay at VHS and would do so well in a new home where she could shine and get all of the

EDITORIAL

Continue the Positive

Art and science are in the forefront in the Valley.

Events last week were designed to engage and excite student interest in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

The Livermore School District hosted its annual Science Odyssey. Students from all of the district's schools entered projects.

Las Positas College was the site of the annual Expanding Your Horizons conference, which focused on encouraging young women to seek careers in math and science.

The event was organized by the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

The Lab is also behind the annual Science and Engineering Fair. This countywide competition will be held at the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton March 8 and 9 from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day.

In the art world, Carnegie Hall announced that Pleasanton's Annie Wu, a student at Foothill High School, has been selected to perform with the first ever National Youth Orchestra of the United States of America. Wu plays the flute. Her time with the orchestra will include two weeks

CAREER

(continued from page one)

aware that resume writing has changed, said Bartolotti. Now the resumes are tailored to the person's job skills, as they match up to a job description. In the old days, one simply listed education and work experience.

All of the classes go for a week, eight hours a day. They include classes about entrepreneurial management, the credit field, e-commerce, and retail sales.

A sampling from the on-line catalogue shows that the sales class covers many things, including a step by step analysis of a sale, role playing focusing on the sales process, how to manage time, and even learning retail sales slang.

Hand 'n Hand holds a job fair every month on its premises on Stoneridge Drive. There are other special presentations, as employers come in ready to hire people, said Bartolotti.

"Safeway held an exclusive job fair here. They brought in 12 of their staff, and even conducted drug-testing here. There were 60 interviewed, and 15 walked out with job offers that day. Safeway offered them jobs that included positions for clerks, bakers, coffee servers, produce and gas station attendants," said Bartolotti.

Bartolotti's background is in business education. She worked with the College of Automotive Management in

Pleasanton. She was director there, but when the automotive industry took a dive in 2008, they facility closed its doors. "Auto companies were not ready to sign \$16,000 checks anymore for five weeks of training," she said.

Many of the people who use Hand 'n Hand are eligible to have their expenses covered by various government programs. The state employment department often picks up the tab for its clients, since Hand 'n Hand has qualified as an institution on the state's list.

Bartolotti also offers outreach to schools. She went to Valley High School in Dub-

lin to "let them know we are here, especially students in a non-traditional school, who might have had problems. They just need more skills. We are able to offer them small classes, and make sure there is one-on-one instruction. That's why we are here all day, and that's why there is homework. When you come into our center, you are coming to work," said Bartolotti.

Bartolotti opened the center last year, though planning began in 2009. She is still volunteering her time, though she hopes one day the non-profit will be bringing in enough revenue to pay her a salary.

Recycled Water Coalition Is Growing

The Western Recycled Water Coalition (WRWC) is showing off its new name as it spreads its geographical reach to the Central Valley.

The alliance of water

but is not a member. The city uses recycled water at its municipal golf course and in select areas north of Interstate 580, including fire hydrants, which are painted

changed, all members must rejoin the organization. The membership is not controversial for Zone 7, so it will be on the board's consent calendar at the March 20

system travels through the Delta, which is a bottleneck for water delivery.

Court decisions about the proper times to pump water to avoid Delta fish kills have