

DOWNTOWN BUSINESS

Lindsay Merchants meet midweek

All Lindsay businesses are encouraged to join the Lindsay Merchant Meeting at 7 a.m. every Wednesday morning at El Palmar Restaurant, 122 E. Honolulu St.

The meetings are held to share suggestions, marketing ideas, etc. in an informal discussion and will give an opportunity to be included in the new Lindsay-Business.com website. If you are unable to attend a meeting, but would like to share a concern or idea, contact any committee member. For more information, call 562-4929.

Free, 'Wage & Hour' seminar is June 19

What are the wage, hour and exemption considerations in the state of California? Find out at this free seminar offered by Pacific Employers on Thursday, June 19.

The seminar is part of Pacific Employers' free seminar series hosted by the Small Business Development Center from 10-11:30 a.m. on the third Thursday of the month at the Tulare-Kings Builders Exchange at the corner of Lovers Lane and Tulare Avenue in Visalia.

Seminars include refreshments and handouts. RSVP to Pacific Employers at 733-4256 or the SBDC at 625-3051. Confirmations may also be faxed to 625-3053.

CITYHALL

City Council meetings are held on the following dates and times:

Exeter

7 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at City Hall, 137 N. F St.

Phone: 592-3710

Mayor:

Ted Maculay

Council:

Charlie Norman, Leon Ooley, Jon Stearns and Jack Allwardt

Lindsay

6 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at City Hall, 251 E. Honolulu St.

Phone: 562-5927

Mayor:

Ed Murray

Council: Pam Kimball, Danny Salinas, Esteban Velasquez and Suzi Picasso

Woodlake

6:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Monday of the month at City Hall, 350 N. Valencia Blvd.

Phone: 564-8055

Mayor:

Chuck Ray

Council: Frances Ortiz, Jack Ritchie, Raul Gonzalez, Jr. and Gracie de la Rosa

Farmersville

7 p.m. on the second and fourth Monday of each month at City Hall, 909 W. Visalia Road.

Phone: 747-0458

Mayor:

Leonel Benavides

Council: Paul Boyer, Don Rowlett, Mike Santana and Ann Hosier



REGGIE ELLIS/SUN-GAZETTE

Laundry Lady is located at 158 E. Pine St. in Exeter. For more information, call 592-0900 or visit www.laundryladycleaners.com.

Dry Cleaner is all 'Wet'

■ New Laundry Lady in Exeter offers toxic-free 'Wet Cleaning' service

By Reggie Ellis
SUN-GAZETTE

Jeff Todd wants you to know that his new business is all wet!

The Exeter entrepreneur recently opened up the second location of his Laundry Lady dry cleaning service in Exeter on Pine Street. But there is nothing dry about the business.

Laundry Lady is the only dry cleaner in Tulare County that uses only a wet cleaning method, an environmentally safe alternative to traditional dry cleaning. Wet cleaning is a non-toxic method that uses computer-controlled washing machines, biodegradable soaps and conditioners, and various types of pressing equipment that can be customized for almost any fabric and fiber types. Laundry Lady takes any kind of garment or linen from Goose down comforters to fragile wedding gowns. Prices range from \$2.50 to \$39.95.

"It uses biodegradable soaps just like your washing machine at home except the machines can be customized to safely wash any kind of clothing without damaging it," Todd said.

Traditional dry cleaning uses a chemical called perchloroethylene, or perc. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, perc is used by 90% of dry cleaners and can damage the central nervous and reproductive systems. Perc is classified as a probable human carcinogen by the International Agency for Research on Cancer. According to California's South Coast Air Quality Control District, people who live near dryclean-

ers are at a higher risk of cancer than those who live near oil refineries or power plants. When released into the air, perc can contribute to smog when it reacts with other volatile organic carbon substances.

In January 2007, the California Air Resources Board (ARB) voted to gradually phase out perc by 2023. As of Jan. 1, 2008, no new perc-using machines were allowed to be installed in California.

"We offer something that no one else here can offer and are way ahead of the curve on wet cleaning," Todd said.

Todd said he got the idea to start his business because dry cleaners have a high success rate for a small business. He and his partners started the business with one location in Visalia, located at 3533 W. Noble Ave. While the 3,500-square-foot facility in Visalia is still the main location for the actual washing and pressing, Todd said the plan was to open a store in Exeter.

"There hasn't been a dry cleaner in Exeter for at least five years and maybe longer," Todd said. "There is a definite need here and I think our customer service will set us apart."

The store is located at 158 E. Pine St. in Exeter. Hours are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday. For more information, call 592-0900 or visit www.laundryladycleaners.com.

Contact Us

Send briefs via e-mail to editor@thesungazette.com
FAX to 592-4308.

Call 592-3171.

Mail to the Sun-Gazette at P.O. Box 7, Exeter, CA 93221
Visit www.thesungazette.com

Bank of the Sierra grants thousands to local groups

SUN-GAZETTE

The Boys & Girls Clubs of the Sequoias has recently been awarded two separate Community Reinvestment Act Grants from the Bank of the Sierra. The first of these grants - in the amount of \$2,000 - will support the implementation of the club's nationally renowned Triple Play Program. The second grant for \$3,000 was awarded to the Boys & Girls Club of Porterville to sponsor a summer basketball league.

Triple Play demonstrates how eating right, keeping fit and forming positive relationships add up to a healthy lifestyle for Club members.

The Triple Play programming strategy features three components:

- Mind - developing healthy habits, such as making smart food choices, understanding appropriate portion sizes and creating fun and healthy meals;
- Body - becoming more physically active through daily fitness and fun to get kids moving; and
- Soul - strengthening character and reinforcing positive behavior with social recreation activities designed to improve confidence and develop interpersonal skills.

Bank of the Sierra Vice President and Exeter Branch Bank Manager, Art Zschau, recently participated in a ceremonial check presentation to Boys & Girls Clubs of the Sequoias Executive Director Joe Engelbrecht, symbolizing



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Art Zschau, Exeter branch manager for Bank of the Sierra, presents a check for \$5,000 to Joe Engelbrecht, executive director of the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Sequoias in Exeter, Farmersville and Porterville.

the Bank's generous support of Boys & Girls Club programming.

"Bank of the Sierra is a strong proponent of youth development programming in the San Joaquin Valley communities it serves," Zschau stated, "and we are pleased that our support will assist the Exeter and Porterville Boys & Girls Clubs in introducing local kids to the concepts and principles advanced in programs such as Triple Play."

"Support such as that provided by Bank of the Sierra," said Engelbrecht, "helps our Clubs in Exeter, Farmersville and Porterville provide effective life and leadership skills training as well

as opportunities to participate in sports leagues free of charge to Tulare County youth."

"With these grants," Engelbrecht concluded, "Bank of the Sierra is literally reinvesting in Exeter and its future by investing in the development and enhancement of the character of its youth."

Strathmore High band gets \$5K to go to Sydney

Bank of the Sierra is pleased to announce a Sierra Grant award in the amount of \$5000 to the Strathmore High School Chamber Wind Ensemble.

Thirteen band members have the opportunity to participate in *Premiering Sydney*, an international band festival held in Sydney, Australia. The honor of performing in this festival came as the result of receiving "Superior" ratings in the Tulare County CMEA Instrumental Music Festivals in 2006 and 2007. Only five or six other band programs from the United States will attend the function in July of 2008.

Held at the Opera House in Sydney, *Premiering Sydney* will feature the premier of a piece composed by Frank Tichelli. This will be the first time the band will travel outside the U.S. The Sierra Grant has made this exciting and educational trip a reality.

"Bank of the Sierra is proud of the band's accomplishment. We are happy to make a contribution to make this well deserved opportunity possible," stated James C. Holly, President and CEO of Bank of the Sierra.

Bank gives \$2,500 for ed tours at Oaks Preserve

Bank of the Sierra is pleased to announce a \$2,500 Sierra Grant awarded to the Sequoia Riverlands Trust's Outdoor Education Program, offsetting the costs associated with offering guided tours of the Kaweah Oaks Preserve to local students. Each year, 1,500 school children

See **BANK** on page A12

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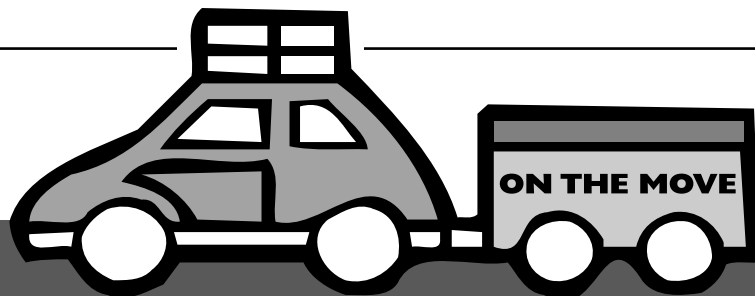
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