

Fairfield legal firm adds new attorney

Gaw Van Male, a Napa Valley law firm with branches in Vacaville, Fairfield and Redlands, has hired veteran attorney Alfonso Poiré, it has



Poiré

been announced. After earning his bachelor's degree in political science from the University of California, Los Angeles, Poire (pronounced "POOR-ray") received his law degree from the University of California, Berkeley, Boalt Hall School of Law in 1989. He then worked for Associate Justice John A. Arguelles of the Supreme Court of California.

Poire, who joined Gaw Van Male on May 1, brings to the litigation and advocacy department many years of business and litigation experience, most notably serving as general counsel for a large Northern California lumber and hardware supplier. His practice areas will continue to concentrate on commercial transactions and related matters, including mechanics' liens, contracts, leases, land use as well as business labor/employment and general civil litigation. He lives in Fairfield with his wife, Heather, and their children.

For more information, visit www.gawvanmale.com.

Bank hires new lending manager

First Northern Bank hired Joseph "Joe" Kleeman as a vice president/mortgage lending manager, bank officials announced.

His primary job at the Dixon-based bank corporation will be to manage real estate mortgage and construction loan businesses, as well as the sales in the real estate mortgage loan department.



Kleeman

"Mortgage rates are the lowest they've been all year long, and First Northern offers very competitive rates," Kleeman said in a press release. "I'm looking forward to helping homebuyers realize their dream of home ownership and finding competitive rates for homeowners who want to refinance."

Kleeman brings more than 22 years of mortgage origination and underwriting experience to the Dixon-based bank corporation. Most recently, he was vice president of home loans for Patelco Credit Union. Kleeman also served as manager of sales and underwriting for SAFE Credit Union, and as a loan officer and underwriter for The Money Store. He began his banking career with Wells Fargo.

He earned a bachelor's degree in agricultural and managerial economics from the University of California, Davis, as well as a California real estate broker's license. He lives in Sacramento with his wife and two teenage children.

Kleeman's office is in the bank's Davis real estate loan office, 508 Second St. Contact him at (530) 753-1585.

Vaca Red Robin is now hiring

Managers at Vacaville's new Red Robin Gourmet Burgers want to hire 130 people before the restaurant opens in late June.

In a press release, a company spokeswoman said potential new hires "must have a passion for burgers," believe in great customer service and "share Red Robin's core values: honor, integrity, seeking knowledge and having fun."

All employees must also be at least 18 years old.

If interested and qualified, apply in person at the restaurant, 186 Nut Tree Parkway, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Saturday, during the coming week.



D. Ross Cameron/Contra Costa Times

John Ledbetter, executive chef (left) and Sean Weymiller, chef du cuisine at Bocanova restaurant at Jack London Square in Oakland were hired as part of the One Job for

America program, which asked business owners to add one job to help with the country's unemployment woes. In this case, chef-owner Rick Hackett hired two people.

One job at a time

Bay Area businesses hire as part of online campaign

By Eve Mitchell
Contra Costa Times

Restaurateur Rick Hackett already was in a hiring mood to accommodate his growing business when he read about a website that pitched a straightforward concept: What if every business in America added one new job? He not only added one job, he added two during February and March at his restaurant, Bocanova, at Jack London Square in Oakland. Both jobs are management positions: an executive chef and chef de cuisine. The latest hires bring the total number of full- and part-time workers at his eatery that opened in September 2009 to 77.

"You're making a huge commitment and you're counting on a certain amount of growth and you're counting on the economy rebounding," he said. "I've always been a big believer that you need to have the infrastructure in place to handle the kind of business you want to do. I

don't want to be a reactionary where all of a sudden we're really busy and everybody is stretched thin."

One thing that is stretched thin in America is jobs, where the national unemployment rate stood at 9 percent in April, with California even higher at 11.9 percent. That is why Carla Emil and her husband, Richard Silverstein, in February started One Job for America and its website, www.onejobforamerica.org.

Emil is a former advertising executive now involved with various nonprofits, and Silverstein is co-chairman and creative director of Goodby Silverstein & Partners, a well-known San Francisco-based advertising agency. And yes, Goodby Silverstein is among the 69 employers nationwide, including two in the East Bay, that have added at least one new position as a result of the campaign.

"That's what I like about it — the simplicity. It's kind of like chipping away at one

person at a time," Emil said of the website, which displays a map of where jobs have been pledged and filled.

When a job is created by an employer, it benefits more people than just the person who gets the job, she said.

"It will benefit our society. "... There have been a number of businesses that have made pledges and are in the process of hiring somebody," she said. "It's about being optimistic and taking a chance."

It's not just businesses that are adding jobs. Some nonprofits also are pledging to hire. The Change Initiative USA, an Albany-based nonprofit, has pledged to add a position but has yet to hire.

The campaign acted as a do-it-now button for Hackett, who was thinking about adding the two new management positions to accommodate a restaurant that is seeing more customers coming in compared to last year. "It was the impetus to make the hires right now," he said.

Another East Bay company that added a new job is Suite Seven, an Oakland company that opened in 2006 to help businesses communicate with customers online.

"It was my first hire," said Stacey King Gordon, Suite Seven's founder and principal.

Like Hackett, she also was thinking about adding a job before the website campaign.

"I had already made the commitment to do it," Gordon said of the project manager employee job that was filled this week. "I've been a one-person shop since I started the company in 2006. I've been using freelancers, but have been growing and I finally decided to make the leap and come a full company with staff."

Being able to go to www.onejobforamerica.org and say that she had created job provided Gordon with a boost. "I'm proud to be able to do that and the website was a way to formalize that," she said.

Familiar faces head new law firm

Are you hiring? No

Services/items offered: Legal services

Previously in this location: "We are privileged to share office space with the law office of Donald P. Stephenson in the historic building that previously housed the law firm of Dobbins, Weir, Thompson and Stephenson."

Previous profession: "We were both deputy public defenders, in Solano County and, later, Siskiyou County. Laura entered private practice in 2007 and Robert joined her in 2010."

Fun fact about your business: "A successful day in court is always celebrated with a ride on the Harley-Davidson."

Unique thing about this new business: "We are the only husband-and-wife team in Vacaville that focuses on criminal defense and juvenile cases."

Your company's mission or philosophy: "'The Defense Never Rests' is our motto. Our clients benefit from our compassion, reputation, experience and determination."

Management style: "We focus on getting the job done."

Why we opened this type of business: "Every person facing the power of the government needs strong representation. We live and work in



Lawyers Laura Petty and Robert Warshawsky have started a new law firm in Vacaville.

Joel Rosenbaum
JRosenbaum@TheReporter.com

Vacaville, and felt uniquely situated to use our almost 40 years of combined experience to help our local community."

Most favorite thing about this business: "Using our training and experience to help people in times of extreme crisis."

Biggest challenges and plan to tackle them: "Our business is succeeding in these tough economic times because we offer quality services, with personalized attention and a commitment to excellence, at reasonable rates."

Description of clients: "People from all walks of life and circumstances."

Life experiences that best prepared us for this job: "Working many years as deputy public defenders gave us both a wealth of experience with the most serious of cases."

Petty and Warshawsky, attorneys at law

Address: 500 Main St., Vacaville
Phone: 446-6309

Website: www.pettyandwarshawsky.com

Hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays to Fridays; weekends and evenings by appointment

Date opened: July 1, 2010

Owners: Laura Petty and Robert Warshawsky

Number of employees: Three