

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Koster named co-chairwoman at Salinas-based Mann Packing

Lorri Koster has been named co-chairwoman of Salinas-based Mann Packing Co., a leading grower-shipper of broccoli and fresh-cut vegetable products.

Koster is the daughter of former co-chairman Don Nucci, who died unexpectedly Sept. 4.

The board elected Koster on Oct. 5 to her new position. Mann's former president and chief executive officer, Koster's older brother, Joe Nucci, died in July 2005.

She is a member of the third generation of her family to work in the agriculture industry. She started working for Mann on a part-time basis in 1981, joined the marketing department full-time in 1995 and now consults for the corporation in the marketing and communication areas.

Richard Harvey named chief compliance officer at Rabobank

Attorney Richard H. Harvey Jr. has been named chief compliance officer at Rabobank, N.A.

In this new position, Harvey will manage Rabobank's regulatory and compliance function, and represent the bank in dealing with federal and state regulatory agencies and examiners.

He is based in Salinas.

Law & Politics Magazine honors Salinas attorney Robert House

Salinas lawyer Robert L. House has been named one of Northern California's Super Lawyers for 2006 by Law & Politics Magazine and the publishers of San Francisco Magazine.

This is the third year in a row House has received the honor.

He is a senior partner in Lavorato, House, Clinton & Lavorato in Salinas.

Bassetti to specialize in ag, industrial properties for NAI BT

NAI BT Commercial has hired Michael Bassetti for its Monterey/Salinas office, specializing in agricultural and industrial properties.

Bassetti has been involved in the agriculture industry for 20 years, spending the past 15 years as a self-employed businessman.

He and his wife of 16 years, Denelle, live in Salinas and have two children.

Pierson wins Eagle's Circle status at Woodbury Financial

B. Randall Pierson of Pierson & Associates Insurance Services in Salinas has

been named to the Woodbury Financial Services' Eagle's Circle. The Eagle's Circle is a rewards and recognition program.

Pierson has more than 25 years of experience in the financial services industry, and holds the Series seven and 66 licenses.

Mitchell named marketing director at Del Monte Center

Beth Mitchell has joined Del Monte Shopping Center as its marketing director.

Mitchell was formerly the director of marketing for the Merced Mall.

Susi Diallo receives service award from Edwards Jones

Susi Diallo, branch administrator of the Salinas Edward Jones office, has received the firm's five-year service award.

Diallo works for Edward Jones investment representative John Musni.

Ann Hantelman attends Edward Jones regional meeting

Ann Hantelman of Edward Jones attended a regional meeting in Palo Alto to exchange ideas with other branch office administrators.

Hantelman is the branch office administrator to Eunice Somerset, an Edward Jones investment representative in Salinas.

Branch office administrators are responsible for the day-to-day operation of the office.

Fitzgerald named executive director at Rabo AgriFinance

Rabo AgriFinance, the U.S. agricultural lending arm of the Rabobank

Group, has announced the hiring of John Fitzgerald as executive director /relationship manager.

Fitzgerald will be based in Rabobank's Salinas office, where he will join the Rabo AgriFinance team that specializes in agricultural lending for the Central Coast area.

Prior to joining Rabo AgriFinance, Fitzgerald was a relationship manager with American AgCredit in Salinas.

Information: 757-2274.

Jeff Filiater and Scott Komar named to posts at Chiquita

Cincinnati-based Chiquita Brands International Inc., owner of Salinas-based Fresh Express, has made several managerial changes geared at expanding market growth in bananas and value-added salads.

Heading two newly created global-product leader positions are

Jeff Filiater and Scott Komar.

Komar, who was the vice president of operations at Fresh Express, is now the new vice president, global strategies for salads. His responsibilities include strategizing growth in the company's value-added salads, which entails broadening its reach into new markets. Komar will report directly to Tanios Viviani, president of Fresh Express.

Filiater, now vice president of global strategies for bananas, is responsible for the company's growth in the banana business worldwide and the establishment of expansion policies and product improvements. He was previously the senior vice president of Chiquita Fresh North America.

Other changes to Chiquita's management roster include the hiring of Richard M. Continelli as president of Chiquita Fresh North America and the promotion of Manjit Singh to chief information officer.

Brenda Roncarati to take post at Monterey County Bank

Brenda Roncarati, former president and chief executive officer of the Monterey Peninsula Chamber of Commerce, left her position to start a new career with Monterey County Bank.

Bryan Wilson, Laura Hubrich join the staff at Earthbound Farm

San Juan Bautista-based Earthbound Farm hired Bryan Wilson as supply management fruit and commodity manager. Wilson started with the company Aug. 14.

He earned his degree in plant science from California State University, Fresno, with an emphasis in viticulture and tree fruit production. He has more than 12 years' experience in grower relations, from growing practices and crop projections to strategic planning and management of grower information systems.

Earthbound Farm also hired Laura Hubrich as marketing manager. Hubrich will work with Earthbound Farm's marketing team to develop and implement the company's brand strategy.

Hubrich has more than 10 years of experience in marketing. Most recently, she worked as a direct marketing manager with Excelligence Learning Corporation in Monterey, where she oversaw the complete planning, production and marketing of business-to-business catalogs.

Lynne Griffin marks 30 years with Abramson Church & Stave

Lynne Griffin, a paralegal for Salinas law firm Abramson Church & Stave LLP, celebrated her 30th anniversary with the firm in September.

Griffin was just 25 years old when she started at Abramson Church & Stave. She had moved to the Central

Coast from England. After she started at AC&S as a secretary, the firm quickly realized she had much more potential and offered to pay for her training as a paralegal.

Griffin works in the fields of employment law, litigation and health care, and said she plans to spend many more years at the law firm.

Boucher, Erdinc and Storm earn promotions at Wells Fargo

Wells Fargo & Co. has named Julie Boucher to assistant vice president, business relationship manager; Hakan Erdinc to vice president, senior business relationship manager; and Sue Storm to vice president, business banking manager.

Wells Fargo's Central Coast Business Banking Group has offices in Salinas, Monterey, Gilroy, Paso Robles, San Luis Obispo, Santa Cruz and Watsonville.

O'Neill named new director of operations at Sierra Instruments

Sierra Instruments of Monterey has announced the appointment of Jim



Jim O'Neill

O'Neill as its new director of operations.

As director of operations, O'Neill is responsible for day-to-day manufacturing, supply chain and administrative functions of the international multi-million-dollar technology

company.

Produce supplier Pro*Act names director of food safety

Pro*Act Specialties, a leading specialty produce supplier to the foodservice industry, has announced the appointment of Amaral Sequeira-Munoz as the new director of food safety.

Sequeira-Munoz, a Ph.D.-level food scientist with a strong background in food microbiology, food chemistry, HACCP, GMP and SSOP, comes to Pro*Act Specialties from Red Bull North America, where he was quality assurance manager.

Kinan Valdez returns to El Teatro Campesino as associate director

Kinan Valdez has rejoined El Teatro Campesino in San Juan Bautista as associate artistic director.

Valdez will collaborate with artistic director Luis Valdez to further the creative vision of the Chicano performance group.

Valdez, who is directing El Teatro Campesino's current production of "La Virgen del Tepeyac" has also written an original work titled "¡Basta Basura!" ("Enough trash!")