

# Sun shines on open day for solar power

■ Two classes for people who want to install panels

By **SHELBY LACY**  
Staff writer

As the world gradually runs out of oil, the switch to renewable energy becomes more urgent, and two classes at the Newark Ohlone Center are a significant part of the effort.

Under the title of professional development is a class called Solar Intensive Training. On Sept. 21 on the Newark campus, an intensive training course began. It is a week-long bootcamp for people who want to learn about solar panels, and how to install them.

The class is designed for those who are unemployed and need to learn something new, or even just someone who wants to brush up on their skills. This course costs \$2,500, which covers 40 hours of class time and a book. You can earn no credits for this class.

This intensive training class covers installation techniques and applications in residential and commercial construction. During the 40 hours of this five-day class, students get hands-on training outside on a mock roof. The roof is placed low on the ground for safety reasons. The lab is called theory and skills.

Students learn to install the panels including all the electrical and wiring required. The four objectives of the class are to:

- Learn to analyze solar photovoltaic system energy and building resources.
- Critically assess solar photovoltaic system applications, site evaluations, design analysis,

codes and materials, and methods of installation.

- Investigate solar photovoltaic systems and their relationship with energy conservation, scarce resources and the environment.
- Compare and contrast solar photovoltaic system energy sources and applications.

An optional entry-level certification exam from NABCEP is available to the students. All this is made possible by the Workforce Investment Act.

“The government is putting money into the state so we can educate the future workers of tomorrow,” said Gale Carli, the dean of Health and Environmental study at the Ohlone campus in Newark.

Carli had been out with the class on one of their projects, as the class installed the solar panels on the mock roof setup.

“It’s really a lot of fun!” said Carli. The class is taught by Narendar Bansal. He has a master’s degree and has had numerous solar training sessions. If this class is too much too fast for you, another course runs parallel to this one, also on the Newark campus.

This class is taught by Dr. Hal Aronson, who has been working in the solar industry for a number of years and who has traveled the world installing a countless number of panels.

Unlike Bansal’s bootcamp, Dr. Aronson’s class lasts a total of 10 weeks and is conducted every Sunday. Instead of gaining no credits, you can earn three and it only costs \$26 for each unit.

So, whether you are looking for a refresher course or want to learn to make a living performing a skilled trade, you could learn to install environmentally friendly solar power panels.

# Pay cuts center of crisis talk

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and the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), both of which represent non-teaching staff.

Any final decision reached by the administrators and the unions will go to the Board of Trustees for final approval in early November. Whatever measures that are decided upon will be put into effect Jan. 1.

About 100 faculty, staff and students attended the budget forum in the Jackson Theater. Browning and Calageri said Ohlone trying to solve the \$700,000 deficit problem

without layoffs. Across-the-board salary reductions seemed to be the focus of negotiations, since Calageri gave detailed explanations of how much would have to be cut from each of the three groups.

There were no such detailed explanations of how many workers would have to be laid off or furloughed.

The problem surfaced when the state revised the budget that had been previously approved for community colleges. Reductions in tax revenue and business activity forced

a mid-year cut in the budget.

Calageri said after cutting flexible categorical programs, such as EOPS that receive funding that is allowed to be moved between funds and the \$1 million in reserves, the budget gap went from \$2.2 million to the approximately \$700,000 figure that must be resolved.

Browning said the Board of Trustees advised her that “Furloughs and wage reductions absolutely should be considered, and layoffs should not be used unless necessary.”

# Gun cases go before court

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Court of Appeals heard the Nordyke case. The county has financed the defense for about a decade. If the Nordykes filed a petition for a writ of certiorari, which means asking the U.S. Supreme Court to hear the case.

In light of the recession, the County should cease fighting the

Nordyke’s and allow them to operate on county property. State and federal laws already regulate these sales and if the Nordykes comply there shouldn’t be any problems.

This process is beginning as gun owners, sellers of guns, and citizens who are anti-gun ownership, pick their way through the rather vague issues of what is a “sensitive

place” and what are qualifications on commercial sales? It is not the time to engage in protracted, heated, lengthy, and expensive litigations regarding these issues.

Individuals must ultimately take charge of the issue of guns and make sure that if they own a firearm, they are stored and used safely by people who are mentally stable enough.

# Reporters use social media

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the Iranian election riots last summer, including an uploaded video of a girl dying as she was caught in a crossfire. The video was immediately uploaded to Twitter and was all over the news that day.

A more recent example of social media taking over happened yesterday, during the Newark Memorial High School lockdown Wednesday.

A reporter for the Ohlone Monitor newspaper read about the lockdown

on a friend’s status update on Facebook. No major local news source (KTVU.com, InsideBayArea.com, sfgate.com, etc.) had any, if not little information.

Although reporters were held outside the campus by Fremont, Union City and Newark Police, students inside the lockdown updated and tweeted all about the lockdown and the situation.

With such updates, parents of the students inside Newark Memorial

quickly flocked to NewPark Mall, which is right across the street from the campus, hoping to see what may be going on at the school.

No students were harmed and three of the four suspects have been apprehended.

Videos and pictures taken inside the campus during the lockdown were uploaded on Facebook via Twitter or Facebook mobile, proving that the kids inside were safe, giving parents a sense of relief, even if it was only 140 characters.

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