

# Los Alamos Monitor



GARY WARREN/Monitor File Photo

**BIG DRIVE** Rick Chavez, a United Blood Services technician, prepares a donor for a blood-draw at a recent drive. The upcoming drive, preceding Memorial Day weekend, is especially important.

## The life you save may be your own

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Now there's another great reason to donate blood: United Blood Services provides free cholesterol testing for blood donors.

"Donors give to save lives," said Andra Riordan of UBS. "It makes sense to offer this wellness benefit to people who so generously share their good health with others."

Because it's important for donors to have a healthy meal before donating, UBS will offer a total cholesterol test that allows donors to eat before the test.

"Los Alamos is an exceptional community with the level of support it gives in blood donations," Riordan said.

Only when a significant number of people donate on a regular basis can a community maintain adequate blood supplies, she said, especially around major holiday weekends.

"If everyone waited for an

emergency before donating, lives could be jeopardized," Riordan said.

This drive is especially important because it is being held just before Memorial Day weekend, in preparation for an increased level of automobile and boating accidents around the state. Currently the greatest need is for O- and A- types, but all blood types are needed.

UBS also accepts platelet donations, which are used for cancer treatments.

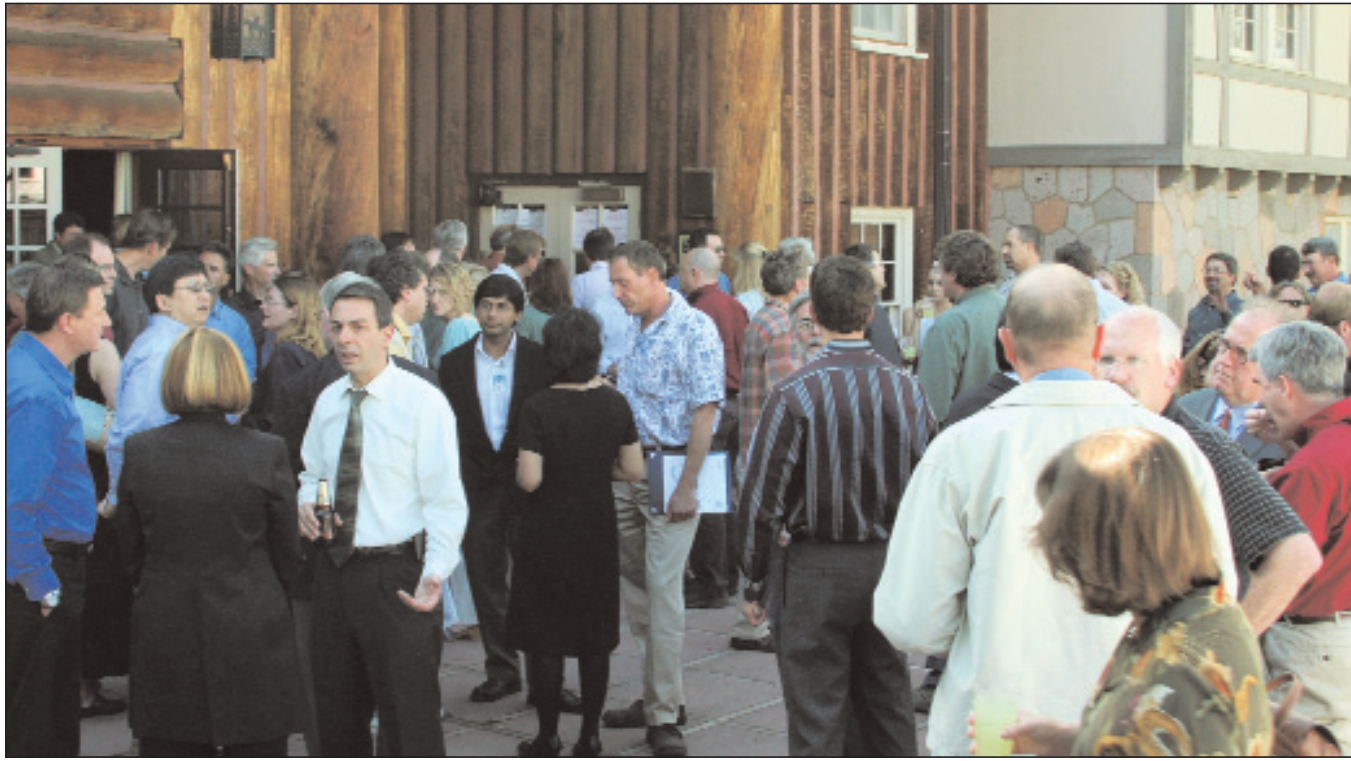
Whole blood can be donated up to six times per year, or platelets can be donated as often as every eight weeks, because whole blood is not taken in a platelet donation.

Blood donors must be 17 years or older, must weigh at least 110 pounds and be in good health. Donors are asked to bring a photo ID and Donor Card every time they donate.

First-time donors receive a donor card with their blood type in the mail shortly after

See **SAVE**, 2

## Smart rewards



GARY WARREN/Monitor

**ROYALTIES** Outside historic Fuller Lodge, Los Alamos National Laboratory scientists, friends and guests gather for the ninth annual Outstanding Innovation 2006 Technology Transfer Awards Thursday evening, where many received bonuses and license royalties.

## LANL bestows top tech awards

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More than 100 Los Alamos National Laboratory scientists, friends and guests gathered for the ninth annual Technology Transfer Awards event Thursday evening at Fuller Lodge. Previously known as the Los Alamos Patent and Licensing Awards, the event has grown to encompass patents, copyright, licensing, programmatic impact and regional impact.

The program began with Terry Wallace, principal associate director for Science, Technology and Engineering, introducing keynote speaker Mark Crowell, associate vice chancellor for Economic Development and Technology Transfer from The University of North Carolina at

See **TECH AWARDS**, 3



MARK CROWELL, Associate Vice Chancellor for Economic Development and Technology Transfer

## Event showcases new technology

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ALBUQUERQUE – For the second year in a row, the Los Alamos National Laboratory Technical Showcase kicked off the serious business of pitching and catching technology properties that is the specialty of the New Mexico Equity Capital Symposium.

This was the 14th year of the symposium organized by Technology Ventures Corporation. TVC President and CEO Sherman McCorkle served as master of ceremonies.

After a tour of Sandia National Laboratories and before the evening cocktail party on Wednesday,

See **NEW TECH**, 3



DUNCAN MCBRANCH  
LANL Tech Transfer Division leader

## Police back youth

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Fun and well-being for area youth has been highlighted at meetings and presentations conducted throughout the community by Los Alamos Police.

During a May 1 presentation to Kiwanis Club members, Chief Wayne Torpy and Det. Doug Johnson spoke about efforts to help youth taking place by police and others throughout the community.

Mike Luna, Home Run Pizza owner, was honored during the Kiwanis meeting for his longtime commitment to youth.

Torpy said Luna is a typical example of the many residents who are active and invested in local youth.

He also praised Juvenile Justice Advisory Board Coordinator Sharon Stover.

"Sharon is behind the force in this community that is helping youth and I want to recognize her," he said. "She has recruited me to serve on many youth-oriented boards."

Johnson described a reward program now uti-

lized by the LAPD.

"Mike came up to me with an idea for police to reward kids spotted on bikes wearing their helmets," Johnson said. "He provided us with free pizza coupons for the kids. It's a great idea, it get officers out of their cars and demonstrates to kids that the police are on their side."

Torpy said he really believes in the youth of Los Alamos.

"We have so many good kids and so many bright kids here," he said. "We're not going to give these kids the opportunity to get on the wrong side of the law – but we need to give them outlets."

One outlet is a new skate park in the town site.

The police have been developing the project for the last year in conjunction with the county. Torpy recognized Community Services Department Director Stephani Johnson at the Kiwanis meeting for her participation on the project.

"We're excited about working with the kids on this project," Johnson said during a recent telephone inter-

See **YOUTH**, 2



GARY WARREN/Monitor

**YOUTH ADVOCATES** Det. Doug Johnson, in foreground, and Chief Wayne Torpy encourage members of the Kiwanis Club to continue their support of youth programs and presented an update of the skate park planned for Los Alamos during a recent noon meeting at Trinity on the Hill Episcopal Church.

## Horse owners face rate hikes

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"It's getting harder and harder to own a horse," said Laura Cox of the Horse Owners Advisory Subcommittee to the Parks and Recreation Board.

The fee for lot rental at North Mesa Stables has increased again. It rose from \$200 to \$315 two years ago, and to \$400 this year. The price jump reflects the costs of water to the stables and "tipping" charges, which are the costs of hauling manure to the landfill.

The stables are required to comply with a "full recovery" order passed by the county council in 1998, which means the horse-owners need to pay their own way. In addition to the increased lot rent, those who own horses have been hit with an increase in property taxes on the improvements they've made to their stables.

There are 122 lots at the stables, and only two water meters, so all water costs are



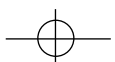
GARY WARREN/Monitor

shared equally. Horse-owners are hoping to realize some savings after water lines damaged by hard frost this winter are repaired.

They may see even more savings when a new manure composting facility is up and running, possibly as soon as September of this year. They can sell the composted manure to the public, and expect to generate some revenue from those sales. HOAS has agreed to review costs again in December.

The Parks and Recreation Board has six subcommittees, representing special interest groups from horse-

See **HORSE**, 2



## TECH AWARDS

From Page 1

Chapel Hill. It ended with a sit-down dinner following the award presentation.

Wallace, in his introduction, spoke of technology transfer as the "center of change" for the laboratory.

"Center of change is creating intellectual capital," he said. Wallace spoke of technology transfer as the laboratory's connection to the nation, saying that is why the lab is here. He said the evening's awards event was a snapshot of what the lab is becoming.

Crowell, with 21 years experience in technology transfer, new company development, seed capital formation, and research park development and marketing has recently become a member of the LANL Technology Transfer External Advisory Board.

He spoke with warmth and humor of the progress North Carolina has made by utilizing creative intellectualism in its major universities and pushing technology transfer, thus benefiting the educational and financial prosperity of the state.

Emphasis was placed on benefiting mankind with technology transfer, which begins as an idea not yet developable to an invention, which becomes marketable. Crowell used an artificial retina as one example. The first implant of an artificial retina took place last year, while the idea started at Duke University in 1989.

For fiscal year 2006, laboratory patent attorneys and staff submitted 92 U.S. patent application filings. Sixty-five individuals were honored for their role in 32 patents issued to the laboratory.

A special award, the 2006 Distinguished Patent Award, went to David Reagor and Jose Vasquez-Dominquez of the Materials Physics and Applications Division – Superconductivity Center for the patent "Through-The-Earth-Radio."

This patent improves wireless communication capabilities by using very low frequency electromagnetic radiation, a superconducting quantum interference device for signal reception and digital audio compression to transmit voice and data signals. One possible use given was in a mining disaster, when other forms of communication would be useless.

LANL made five software copyrights available for commercial use in 2006. Eleven individuals were awarded for their work in software development for technology transfer. The Distinguished Copyright Award went to Chung-Hsing Hsu and Wu-Chun Feng (now at Virginia Polytechnic Institute) of the Computer, Computational and Statistical Sciences Division for their copyright of "Energy Fit."

Energy Fit is a software program created to enhance energy efficiency and reliability associated with high performance computing systems. The software can modify CPU voltage in real-time to minimize energy expenditures. It is expected to enter the market within one year with a license option agreement and cooperative R&D agreement with AES Corporation.

LANL's licensing program grants rights to commercial and noncommercial entities to patents and copyrights. For 2006, \$1.63 million was shared with laboratory inventors and the divisions that generated the inventions.

Of 88 licensees and 165 inventors, Kevin Ott of the Materials Physics and Applications Division was awarded the Distinguished Licensing Award. He invented a "selective catalytic reduction catalyst" that can be used to reduce levels of nitrogen oxides inherent in exhaust systems in a "variety of applications."

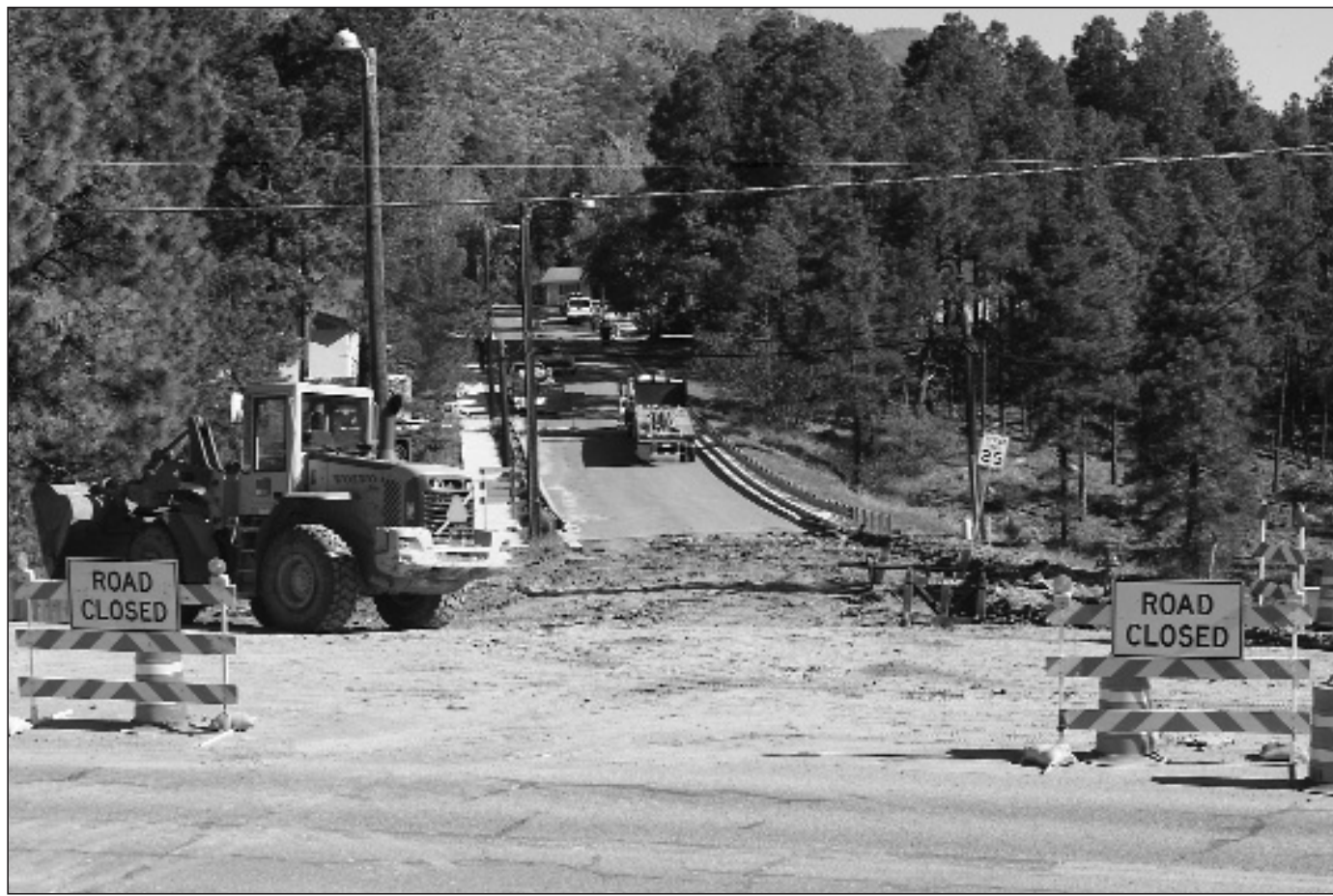
Ott's work has resulted in 19 new invention disclosures, 13 of which have become patent applications, recognized by industry and other researchers throughout the world.

The Programmatic Impact category recognized 49 Lead Principal Investigators in their role in technology transfer agreements. One team, the LANL Muon Tomography team, received the Programmatic Impact Award for their association with partners in industry. Muon tomography, the use of muons produced naturally by the interaction of solar and cosmic rays within the atmosphere, was created to provide homeland security organizations a tool to identify high-density objects without using an active radiation source.

The Technology Division of LANL supports regional programs and services to "assist regional entrepreneurs and to nurture potential entrepreneurs within LANL." The 2006 Regional Impact Award went to CleanAir Systems Inc. of Santa Fe and to Kevin Ott of the Materials Physics and Applications Division.

The goal of the Ott/CleanAir Systems connection is to improve the efficiency of diesel engines. CEO of AirSystems is Michael Roach, who attended the awards ceremony.

## CLOSED



GARY WARREN/Monitor

**DIAMOND DRIVE WORK CONTINUES** Club Road at Diamond Drive was closed this week as Diamond Drive construction progresses. Drivers are encouraged to use 35th Street as an alternative route while Club Road is closed.

## NEW TECH

From Page 1

investors had a chance to preview up-and-coming technical innovations at LANL.

One new area that seems to be coming into its own has to do with acoustics, a technology – to paraphrase science fiction writer Arthur C. Clarke – that is indistinguishable from magic.

The laboratory's thermoacoustic sterling engine, developed in 1999 for space applications, uses heat to create sound waves that drive a generator.

In March, the lab licensed a natural gas liquefaction technique based on a thermoacoustic conversion of hot sound waves into cold refrigeration to help save otherwise wasted energy resources. Denver-based Swift LNG expects to have a commercial version of the system ready for use by 2010.

One of the startup companies that presented during Thursday's symposium, Acoustic Cytometry Systems Inc. uses resonate sound waves to channel biological particles into a "trough" where they can be analyzed and manipulated individually.

LANL Tech Transfer Division leader Duncan

During the showcase, some of the investors dug in their heels, saying that they are geared to evaluating companies and business models, not ideas.

As far as the entrepreneur, one said, "A venture capitalists wants to see somebody willing to jump off a cliff."

McBranch set a theme for much of the discussion that followed, by suggesting there was a measure of "white space" that might be filled between the lab's partnerships with large companies and the relatively small "startups" by individual entrepreneurial scientists.

By big, he meant projects like a wireless communication platform that the lab has been developing with oil-giant Chevron, based on a technology the lab developed originally for secure battlefield communication but which appears to have applications as well for the oilfield.

"We hear the complaint or the lament that the lab is not doing enough to get its technology out there," McBranch said after the meeting. He said he wanted to talk to the investors about ways in which the standard invest-

ment model is not well matched to what the lab can do.

"At what point can you put money behind the risk?" he asked.

Now that the laboratory has committed a new chunk of its own money, from its own income from fees, for a venture acceleration fund, McBranch was curious to see if some new ways of financing may come forward from the outside.

He envisioned a new kind of agreement in which a promising technology could be identified within the laboratory and teamed with an investment partner outside the lab, working toward a convergence of technical validation inside and a business validation outside.

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are geared to evaluating companies and business models, not ideas.

As far as the entrepreneur, one said, "A venture capitalists wants to see somebody willing to jump off a cliff."

"A venture fund is structured in a very specific way; investment funds put up big dollar amounts and the rules are restrictive," McBranch said. "The criteria used for investments don't allow for technology maturation activities and we want them to realize they're missing a slice of the pie."

One example McBranch cited was a multinational company that was interested in getting partnership rights for a laboratory technology in another country, which would not only underwrite some of the expenses of growing the business, but would provide the entrepreneur with a valuable global partner at the startup.

*Editor's Note: This is the first of two stories about the annual New Mexico Equity Capital Symposium that took place this week in Albuquerque. Part one is about the LANL Tech Showcase, an inside look at the lab's current business development and licensing efforts. Part two will be about the conference as a whole, focusing on several offerings with roots in Los Alamos.*

**Court Verdicts: Abortion Hurts Women**  
 Los Alamos Right to Life Educational Presentation  
 Friday, May 25, 2007 • Doors @ 5:00 PM  
 Immaculate Heart of Mary Church  
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**7th Annual**  
 Community Health Council  
**Children's Festival**  
 Saturday, May 12th  
 Ashley Pond  
 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

**Pet costume contest at noon**

Bring a receipt from any local business dated today thru Saturday and receive a chance to win prizes!

Additional Events Sponsored by:  
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Call reporters Carol Clark at 662-4185, ext. 25,  
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