



# UP FRONT

## Judge urges legalization of certain drugs

An Orange County Superior Court judge called the war on drugs hopeless and called for the legalization of certain narcotics at a forum of the State Bar's annual meeting.

16A

# Festival brings together artists, public



Times/Joan Barnett

**CHARLES PIGG** of Livermore makes a move in a chess game against Kevin Wuebbles, 11, also from Livermore at the Livermore Chess Club booth at the Festival of the Arts. The festival continues from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. today behind The Barn on Pacific Avenue.

## Setting encourages learning

By Michelle Jeffers  
Staff writer

LIVERMORE — The Festival of the Arts is in its 24th year and artist Margo Kirkewoog has participated in every one.

She enthusiastically gives visitors a minitour of her booth; sharing the stories behind each painting and offering friendly advice to would-be artists.

"I feel this is a gift to the community," she says of the art show that was originally started by her friend, the late Muriel Doggett.

Unlike other arts-and-crafts shows that are often more about selling than exhibiting, the Livermore Festival of the Arts requires the artisans to be on hand with their wares.

It creates a learning atmosphere and a better appreciation of the art, the artists say.

"In Livermore, the people like to meet the artists," said Bettie Goosman of Livermore, an artist who works in watercolor and oils. "They meet the people whose paintings they have seen, and they tell me it means more to them."

Goosman said the festival is also a chance to pick up tips from the artists.

"They'll watch how you use the brush and they'll say now I'm using it that way. They see the techniques and understand what goes on in doing a painting," she said.

Kirkewoog, a Livermore resident who has worked as an art teacher in the area for 22 years, said the festival gives her a chance to see former students.

"There is a real sense of com-

munity," she said. "I feel this community is so grand."

Kirkewoog's artwork is well known around the Livermore-Amador Valley: Some of her paintings hang at City Hall. But she said anyone can paint.

"A lot of people are scared of painting. You don't have to have talent. It's the desire to do artwork that's important," she said. "And you learn to see what's really out there."

There is more than paintings and sculpture at the art festival, which continues today from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. behind The Barn on Pacific Avenue in Livermore.

Sharon Gardner of Livermore worked at her spinning wheel Saturday, turning wool into yarn. She and her husband, Bob, also have been coming to the festival for 24 years.

Bob, a potter, sat nearby throwing pots on his wheel.

"We have complementary hobbies," she said, noting that her yarn often becomes placemats and runners used under her husband's pottery.

The hobbies are done for love, she said, and any money they earn selling their work is used to buy more equipment and supplies.

For those who can't make it to the art festival today, sculptor Jeanne Knight of Pleasanton recommended they check out the Livermore Art Association gallery at the Carnegie Building. It's open Wednesdays through Sundays from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.