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Wine Fest Small, But Still a Huge Success

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Special points of interest:

- Chamber Luncheon— May 5 2009, 12 noon at Sammy's Restaurant.
- New Visitor Guide coming soon! Look for more details in your inbox!
- Free yoga classes at Grace Community Church , Monday & Wednesday evenings, 6:15-7:15.
- Want to put something in the Newsletter? Email us and let us know: chamber@castroville.com

What a blast we all had at the 3rd Annual Chamber Wine Fest which took place April 17th at the Hotel Alsace. Although the crowd was smaller that last year, there was nothing small about this event.

The day started out looking gloomy and we were worried about a rain out, however, it cleared up just in time and turned out to be a beautiful night. The approximately 130 guests in attendance were able to enjoy their wine on the covered patio, along with some great entertainment.

Charlie Suehs of Serendipity Wine Imports, provided us with 5 wine selections, 2 whites, 2 reds and a rosé. To compliment the wines, the Alsatian Restaurant provided hors d'oeuvres including cheeses, pate, fruits, pasta and more.

Sid Fly was on hand to grace the crowd with his music! Thank you to Tot and Ward Albro and Carmen and Frank

Danna for hiring Sid for the night.

Teri Barrow was back again with her selection of cigars and cognac at the cigar bar. And Monte Bippert donated a keg for the non wine drinkers.

The most fun of the night had to be the live auction which was led by the famous Terry Dickerson, our resident auctioneer. Who knew he was so talented?

The auction featured a prize winning cake, a magnolia tree, weekend stay at Becker's Vineyard, man baskets, chocolate and cheese tasting, a rescue dog from Nip & Tuck, a weekend bobcat rental, handmade maple bowls, a ride in a steerman biplane, a hotel and spa package and a woman's basket.

People got so into the spirit of giving that 5 more live auction items were donated during the auction. Those

included breakfast for ten at Margie's Restaurant, one year of free tanning at Alsace Tan & Salon, a day at the Spa at Stephanie's on the Plaza Salon and Spa, and Gift Certificates to both the Castroville Café and the Old Alsatian Steakhouse.

We thank everyone who donated an item to help us raise money for the chamber. With the help of Terry, our donors and purchasers, we were able to raise \$6,850 from the live auction alone!

Thanks to ticket sales and donations we were able to raise about \$9,000 after bills are paid out. We are so thankful to everyone who has supported the Chamber through the years. Without all of you we would not be where we are today.

We are already planning our next Wine event which will feature a sampling of beers as well. We will have more details for you later in the year.



One Year Anniversary of the Chamber Newsletter



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It's hard to believe it has already been an entire year since we started producing the monthly chamber newsletter. We have enjoyed providing you with information about what is going on at the Chamber and around Castroville.

Our very first article featured a story on the Wine Tasting, introduced the newsletter, asked for your email and featured the first Business of the Month.

Each month, you can count

on getting a calendar of events, list of new members for the month, special points of interest and stories on just about anything.

We have featured new business openings, local events such as the Fourth of July Parade, St. Louis Day and Old Fashion Christmas, Chamber Stats, and so much more.

We are always open to your suggestions on something you would like to see in the newsletter. Please feel free to

contact us at ashlee@castroville.com if you have story suggestions. And we always have spots available for advertisers in the newsletter. Cost is just \$15 per month and you can tell us how many months you want to run the ad.

We want to thank everyone for being such a great support of the Chamber and we will continue to keep you informed on all the happenings of Castroville!

Old Iron Trail Ride to Benefit Make a Wish Foundation

This year marks the 4th annual Old Iron Trail Ride which will take place on Saturday, May 16. This is Texas's most unique trail ride which features antique farm equipment that has been restored. You won't find any horses in this trail ride!

The ride will begin at 9am at Tractor City (John Deere) in Castroville located at 133 U.S. Hwy 90 W. They will have a quick stop for lunch at Sammy's and then be off. The ride will end back at Tractor City.

Any tractor without lug wheels or a/c, made before 1970 and can run at least 10 mph is welcome to participate in the ride. Anyone with an old farm car or truck is also welcome to join in. They want to

showcase these valuable pieces of history.

The registration donation is \$15 per tractor or vehicle, which includes lunch for the driver. Anyone not driving a tractor or vehicle but participating in the ride will be charged \$10 for lunch.

All monies raised from the trail ride will be donated to the Make a Wish Foundation. In 2006, they raised \$755. In 2007, they were able to bring in \$2,600 and in 2008 they raised a whopping \$6,300!!

Everyone is invited to join, even if you don't have a tractor or farm vehicle. Come ride the route on the best hayride in Texas!

If you are not able to attend but would still like to donate to this wonderful cause that

brings a smile to so many children's faces, you can make a donation at Community National Bank in Hondo or Castroville. The account is set up under Old Iron Trail Ride.

The Make a Wish Foundation grants the wishes of children with life threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope strength and joy. The money raised in 2008 during the Trail Ride allowed them to grant their first wish, sending a child and her family to Disney World in Orlando, Florida. Let's help them raise enough money to grant two wishes this year!

For more information call (830) 741-8922

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Newsletter Information

Editor: Ashlee Tondre Bates

Asst. Editor: Pat Davila

New Member since April 1, 2009

**Boehle Signs, Clay & Carla Boehle
Medina Valley Café, Roland Wolfe (formerly La Normandie)**

May Calendar of Events

Here's what's happening in Castroville in May. All details can be found on the calendar of events at www.castroville.com. If you have an event to add, please email all the information to the web mistress at ashlee@castroville.com.

- Every Thursday:** Live Music at Cora's by Greg Walden, 6 - 9pm
- Every Wednesday:** Free Computer class at the American Legion Hall, 9-11am
- Every 2nd & 4th Wed:** Rotary Club of Medina Valley, 11:45am, Old Alsatian Steakhouse
- 01:** Fiorella Friday, live music, artisans, wine tasting and much more, 6-9pm
- 01-02:** Relay for Life, 7pm to 7am, Warhorse Stadium in Devine, (830) 426-2400
- 02:** Medina Valley Moose Lodge Fish Fry, 4:30-6:30, \$6 a plate, (830) 931-5702
- 05:** Chamber Luncheon, 12 noon, Sammy's Restaurant. **All Members invited!**
- 08:** Friday Night Fever, Lundquist Automotive, 6-10pm, evening of cars, trucks, bikes, food, music and shopping, (830) 931-2479
- 08:** American Legion Scholarship Dinner, 5-7pm, American Legion Hall, (830) 538-9182
- 09:** Regional Park Work Session, 8-11am, sign in at the pool, (830) 931-2692
- 09:** Market Trail Days, Houston Square, 9am-4pm, (830) 538-2316 or Contact: (830) 931-2161
- 10:** Movies at Shooting Star Museum, 6pm. FREE!! (830) 931-3837
- 13:** WOW Social, MV Methodist Church, 12 noon to 3pm, cards, games and fellowship
- 16:** Old Iron Trail Ride, 9am, Tractor City (John Deere), (830) 741-8922
- 16:** Fiddlin' Frenchie Burke Music Festival, 11am, John Lott Park, Lytle TX (830) 772-5843
- 18:** Grand Opening & Ribbon Cutting of Urgent Care Center, 10am, 1501 Houston St.
- 22:** Fourth Friday Featured Business, Commerce Title, 5:30pm, (830) 931-1200
- 26:** Chamber Director's Meeting, Old Alsatian Steakhouse, 12 noon
- 30:** Regional Park Celebration, more details to come

Urgent Care Center to Open May 18th

It is official. The first ever Urgent Care Center in Castroville will host its grand opening on Monday, May 18 at 10 a.m. at their new location at 1501 Houston Street.

Refreshments will be served and Father Jim Conway will be there to bless the building. Jim Tondre, president of Castroville State Bank, will be there to cut the ribbon. Afterwards a tour of the new facility will be given.

Dr. Max Best, Jr., one of the physicians on hand, let us know that they are there to

“provide timely medical service to anyone on a walk-in basis.” They will take acute care walk-ins and will have three full time doctors on staff and possibly two part-time.

Dr. Benson Hausman and Dr. Richard Neel, will also be on staff to along with Dr. Best. They let us know they will have both x-ray and lab service on site as well as physical and occupational therapy. They plan to take many types of insurances including Medicaid and Medicare, BlueCross BlueShield, Workman's

Comp, TriCare and of course cash.

Their hours will be Mon.—Fri. from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and weekends from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. There will always be a physician in house during those hours and they hope to expand their hours and service over time.

They have lots of future plans in place such as offering DOT and FAA physicals as well as travel medical council by Dr. Hausman.

So please join us in welcoming them to Castroville on May 18th.

SALLIE L. HARBORTH

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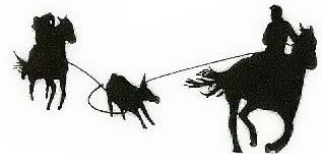
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Business of the Month - Absolute Quality Cabinets

If you're building a new home, setting up a new shop or starting a new business and you need specialty cabinets or wood furniture, then look no further than to Absolute Quality Cabinets in Hondo, Texas.

Amy and James Blair along with their partners Will and Laura Bogert, have owned and operated the business since June of 2007 when they purchased the business from Bob Heyen. They renamed the business and began quickly building a customer base.

"Our main focus is quality," says Amy Blair. "We may not be the cheapest in town, but we focus on the quality of the work and making sure the customers get what they want."

Aside from designing and manufacturing cabinetry and millwork, Absolute Quality Cabinets prides themselves in delivering and installing the

highest of quality custom work. They focus mainly on residential work, but also handle some commercial work. Whether you are in need of custom built cabinets, a display case, or any other type of wood furniture, they are the ones that can handle it.

At the Chamber, we always try to encourage people to use someone local. It's great to know you have someone right in your backyard who not only provides high quality custom wood work but also "the best customer service experience in the South Texas area."

They specialize in just about every area including kitchens, bathrooms, offices, display cases, hotel lobbies, restaurant interiors, and much more.

Along with the cabinetry business, they also own and operate Unique Mesquite in which they manufacture custom

handcrafted mesquite furniture. They have owned this business since 2004, which they started in Dallas and later relocated to Hondo when they started Absolute Quality Cabinets.

When you are ready, their very knowledgeable salesman, Vern Cook, will work one on one with you to come up with exactly what you need. Whether you already know what you want, or you need a little help, he is willing to assist you in developing the design that will best fit your home or office.

So next time you are in need of high quality craftsmanship cabinetry or millwork, look no further than to Absolute Quality Cabinets in Hondo. You won't be disappointed.

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