

# COMMUNITY

## Chili Cookoff Blowout

**H**ave a great Chili or Salsa recipe? Plan to whip it up at the blowout 10th Annual Great Petaluma Chili Cookoff, Salsa and Beer Tasting, Sunday, April 29, at the Petaluma Fairgrounds.

Each year, 1500 people come to enjoy chili and salsa made by local restaurants, businesses, service organizations and individuals -- and beer from 15 area breweries. It's a raucous good time and a great way to promote your business and be part of the community. It's also the primary fundraiser of the year for Cinnabar Theater's Youth program.

For information on entering your special recipe or attending the event, visit [greatchilicookoff.com](http://greatchilicookoff.com) or call the Chili Empress her royal self at 707.778.2100, extension 18.

## Register to Rock 'n' Bowl

**P**etaluma People Services Center will hold its 16th Annual "Rock 'n' Bowl" fundraiser on Saturday, March 31, from 7 to 10 PM at the AMF Boulevard Bowl in Petaluma. All teams interested in participating must pre-register, and lane assignments are going fast. For information on how to participate, contact Elece Hempel at 707.765.8488.

Petaluma People Services Center is in its 33rd year of service to Petaluma and southern Sonoma County. It is dedicated to providing programs that strengthen the dignity and self-sufficiency of the individual. These programs include Meals on Wheels, Teen Violence Prevention, Employment and Training, Homeless Prevention, and Family Counseling.

## Build a Dog House; Fund a Home

**H**abitat for Humanity of Sonoma County invites you to enter the Green Build Dog House contest. You can help Habitat for Humanity build a home for people who need one by creating a dog house that incorporates environmentally friendly concepts.

For information on how to get an entry form, call Sylvia Bray or Mike Cook at 707.578.7077 or e-mail [mikel.cook@gmail.com](mailto:mikel.cook@gmail.com). The entry fee is \$100 for a business and \$50 for a nonprofit. Your entry form and fee must be received by March 15. Dog houses must be completed by March 31.

Best of Show will win \$1,000. The winner will be announced at the Habitat is Doggone Green Fundraiser at 6 PM on Saturday, April 21, at the Sebastopol Community Center. The evening will include dinner, music, dancing, a live auction, and a raffle. All proceeds go to support Habitat for Humanity building projects in Sebastopol.

## Veterans Can Get Aid for Assisted Living

**D**id you know that Veterans can get more than \$1500 a month from the government to help with assisted living and retirement community costs -- or that their surviving spouses can receive \$976 a month? You can learn more about this little-known federal assistance program at a free workshop hosted by Springfield Place Retirement Community, 101 Ely Blvd South, on Wednesday evening, March 14, from 6:30 to 8 PM. For more information, call 707.769.3300.

## Donor Program Funds Innovative Classroom Project

**T**he Petaluma Educational Foundation (PEF) is ramping up its annual donation campaign with a new program, created to attract local businesses and individuals to invest in the future of their community. Janet Ramatici, PEF's Director, says "Our primary mission as a non-profit is to improve the quality of education in each and every public, private and charter school within the Petaluma area. We guarantee that 100% of every dollar donated goes directly to fund grants in all Petaluma area schools."

Corporate and private donors are able to select from three options:

**Make a Difference** donations (\$100 to \$999) will be pooled with other donations to fund grants up to \$2,000.

**Fuel a Passion** donations (\$1,000 to \$4,999) will be used to support the giver's specific areas of interest.

**Fund a Dream** donations (\$5,000 or more) fund major grants for a specific programs.

For more information, call 707.778.4632 or e-mail [janet@pefinfo.com](mailto:janet@pefinfo.com).

## Sesquicentennial Committee Announces Teen Essay Contest

**T**he City of Petaluma was incorporated on April 12, 1858, and next year will see a year long celebration of our town's 150th birthday. As part of the celebration, the Petaluma Sesquicentennial Committee is planning publication of a high-quality book of essays and pictures relating to Petaluma's past, present and future.

Since the young adults of Petaluma are the future of our community, the committee is asking all interested high school students to participate in an essay competition. The winning essay(s) will be incorporated into the text for the final chapter of the sesquicentennial book -- a collector's item that will be treasured for

many years to come.

All students enrolled in grades 9 through 12 of a Petaluma public or private school may enter. The essay should be 1000 to 2000 words long -- expressing your vision of what our town could and should become in the decades ahead.

The deadline for submissions is May 18, 2006. Please mail or bring 4 copies of your entry to: Petaluma 150th Committee, c/o Petaluma Visitors Program, Historic Depot Building, 210 Lakeville Street, Petaluma CA 94952. For more information, call 707.776.2763 or e-mail [petalumapost@aol.com](mailto:petalumapost@aol.com).


We're anxious to read your work.

## Help Fund Student Exchange

**A**t the end of March eleven students from Tomales High School will leave to tour Italy and visit Tomales High's partner school, the Liceo "Pascasino" in Marsala, Sicily. The students will visit and study in Venice, Florence, Pisa, Rome, and Sicily; improve their Italian; experience Italian life while staying with Italian students and families; and strengthen the bonds between the two schools. Last fall, a group from the Liceo

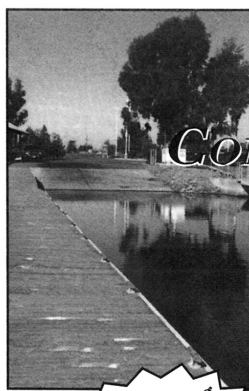
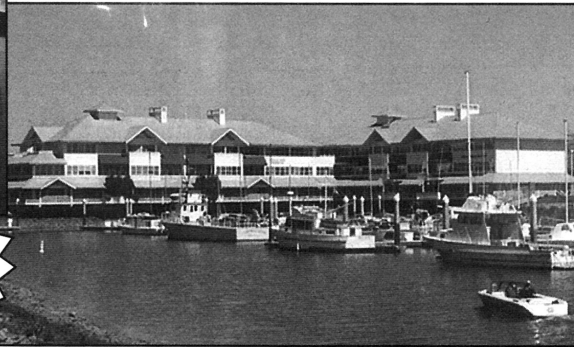
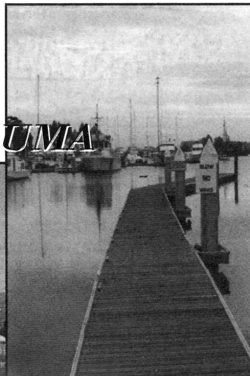
"Pascasino" visited Tomales High School.

March 14, the student exchange program will hold its major fundraiser, "That's Amore!" It's a silent auction and dinner at the Union Hotel in Occidental. The silent auction begins at 5:30 PM followed by dinner and music by Steve Albini. Tickets are \$29. For more information, call 707.878.2286 or e-mail [Tomales-Exchange@CatherineBurton.com](mailto:Tomales-Exchange@CatherineBurton.com).



**PETALUMA**  
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*CONSIDER FRIENDLY PETALUMA*

**HOURS:**  
Tues-Thurs 10-3:30 p.m.  
Fri-Sun 8-5 p.m.

*Guest Berthing \$10.00 night, includes hook up, and power.*

- Newer, well-maintained facility
- Launch ramp for trailerable boats
- Easy freeway access
- Ample parking near berths
- Fuel dock and pumpout on site
- City-provided security

**For Rates & Information Call:**  
**707-778-4489**

**781 Baywood Drive Petaluma, CA**  
**(101 North or South, take Hwy. 116 East exit)**

