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Outsiders of Another Kind

When Steve Pattie isn't lobbying for non-profits and his wife, Sage, isn't offering therapeutic help to patients, the Pleasanton couple collect contemporary self-taught art. Indeed they are one of the country's largest collectors of this fascinating genre. "Art is addictive. Self-taught art is so from the heart," Steve said. "I carried concrete statues home on my lap." Steve is executive producer of a documentary on a leading self-taught artist, Howard Finster, the late Baptist minister turned tour de force in the world of sacred art. "We're working with everyone from the Smithsonian and Johnny Carson Productions to the band R.E.M. and designer Todd Oldham to produce this," Steve explained



Hitting the Bars

Over at West Coast Olympic Gymnastics Academy in Pleasanton, director and coach Vince Miller has the kids hitting the bars. Not only did one of his athletes, Greg Ter-Azkhariants, just win a full scholarship to Stanford, but the younger kids are racking up awards too. Travis Gollott of Livermore was the state champ on the parallel and horizontal bars in the Boys Gymnastics Association Northern California division. Joe Wilcox of Danville made the Northern California All Star Team. Alex Ganz of Danville was named to the top ranked Western States Region I team. Chris Siebel of Pleasanton, was the state champ on the pommel horse, scoring the highest at any event. And Alison Dillon of Pleasanton took the silver medal in the uneven bars and balance beam.



Hoop Men

Speaking of athletes, the San Ramon-based Golden State Warriors are getting the ink. They've got high hopes for their first round draft pick, Ike Diogu, the power forward with the oversized wingspan who was the 2005 Pac-10 Conference Player of the Year, and second round picks, Monta Ellis and Chris Taft. Pre-season action starts Sunday Oct. 10th.

Elbow Grease

Talk about a makeover. Kindango Pepper Tree Child Development Center in Livermore got a facelift from a big group of Providian Financial employees from Pleasanton. They painted classrooms, landscaped the



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playground and made minor repairs. “It’s kind of like a barn-raising,” said jack-of-all-trades Providian employee Ed Green. “Everyone does their part. It’s a great way to give back.” The project is part of Providian’s Building Blocks volunteer program, where employees work together to benefit a local charitable organization that serves low-and moderate-income children and families.

You can find the entire story in our
September/October issue of
Tri-Valley magazine, on newsstands now.
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