

The Abingdon Kiwanian

Tue, Apr 27, 2010 • Vol 2, No 28

We meet today at 7 for breakfast at the Senior Center

A weekly publication of news, information and images from the Kiwanis Club of Abingdon, Virginia

Last Week



Burt won the 50-50 Drawing



Hutton Ponders



Keller & Scyphers greet

This Week's Program

From Thailand to Abingdon

Our member-telling-their-story program for April will feature **Pylynn Virankaburra** and her journey from Asia to Southwest Virginia.



Pylynn Virankaburra

Without spoiling the story, Pylynn grew up in Thailand and came to the U.S. for her college education, as her father had done before her. Her father met her mother, a Marion, Virginia native, at a college here. They married and settled in Thailand, where they

raised a family that included Pylynn and one brother.

After a short stint at ETSU, Pylynn transferred to Emory & Henry where she studied for her chosen field of music education. She graduated

from E&H in 2008 and settled in Abingdon, where she joined our Kiwanis Club last year.

Pylynn's music field is voice and she teaches pre-kindergarden music at the Creative Learning Center in Bristol and has private students.

How did she as a Thai adapt to our culture? What are her future plans? Will she, like her father, return one day to Thailand? Come, hear Pylynn tell her story, and learn these and other answers.

Last Week's Program

E&H had Virginia's second radio station



In 1923, E&H put Virginia's second radio station on the air, only to lose it in the Great Depression. WHEC-FM resumed over-the-air broadcasting last fall

with a new tower near Emory and 9,000 watts, enough to cover Washington County and surrounding areas. Dr. Teresa Keller and Station Manager Richard Graves played bits of their local programming – which they told us is supplemented by programs from NPR and BBC via the Radio IQ service of Roanoke's public radio station. Enjoy!

Plumb Alley Day has a first-ever Sponsor

Alpha Natural Resources will support our largest annual fund-raiser



Enhancing the quality of life around us. RUNNING RIGHT

Abingdon-based coal and energy company, **Alpha Natural Resources**, will be the first Sponsor for our long-running Plumb Alley Day community fund-raising event on May 29.

The new position of Sponsor involves a substantial gift to the club – in Alpha's case, \$4,500 – for which it will share the spotlight on our street banners, in advertisements and, on May 29, on Plumb Alley itself.



Alpha prides itself in supporting the communities where it operates, not just with money but by the efforts of its employees. A statement on the company website says:

It's all part of our philosophy of Running Right. By working to improve the lives of our neighbors, we all benefit. Our focus is on children and families, and we provide support for all levels of education, arts and culture, and funding initiatives for social services helping those needing health care and emergency fuel.

This policy fits well the service goals of Kiwanis and this club – to serve the children of the world as well as our communities

The concept of offering a single sponsorship to a prominent local business or industry came from club member **Carl Clarke**.



Carl Clarke

Several firms have agreed to be Contributors to this year's Plumb Alley Day and they, too, will receive appropriate recognition.

Clark said the large Sponsor gift plus gifts of several Contributors to be announced soon will result in a doubling of business funds to support this year's Plumb Alley Day – and our club's service budget.

Plans are being made to approach more firms about being Contributors to next year's event. These contacts will begin this fall so that the companies, if they wish, can include Plumb Alley Day contributions in their 2011 budgets.

