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ROTARYgrams

Photo by Steve Buser

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ELEMENTARY SCHOOL VISITS

NO ROTARY MEETING AT THE HOTEL - SEE PAGE 2 FOR MAKEUPS

In our club's efforts to provide the most information on the BISD bond issue, Program Chair **Jim Rich** has scheduled three programs this year:

1. BISD superintendent Dr. Carrol Thomas presented the District's "report card" to the club in February;
2. **David Teuscher** presented the compelling need to and the community benefits of approving a bond issue at last week's meeting; and
3. *on April 11th our Rotarians will visit four of the elementary*

schools most in need of replacement or expansion.

If you have signed up to visit a school, **Kevin Roy** will be contacting you with final details. Please contact him if you want to sign up but have not yet done so (895-0661 or interflowfactors@aol.com). Pre-registration is required. The elementary schools being visited are:

AMELIA

565 South Major Drive - 866-2244

BINGMAN

5265 South Kenneth - 838-5259

CRAWFISH BOIL

Toby Castro is still taking reservations for our crawfish boil fellowship event for our family and friends which will be held in the pavilion at Munro's on the corner of Martin Luther King Boulevard and Liberty Street Thursday evening, April 12th for \$20.00 per person. Contact him at 835-3434 or tcastro@texjoy.com or the Rotary Office at 842-1913 or rotarybmt1@yahoo.com

CALDWOOD

102 Berkshire Lane - 835-3818

MARTIN

3500 Pine Street - 835-3115

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Meets Wednesdays at Noon

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Future Programs

APRIL

18th Jim Stokes - West Point history
 25th Ben Jenkins - Wachovia Bank

Make-ups

Monday:

No. Port Arthur Holiday Inn Hwy 69
 Vidor Hibernia National Bank

Tuesday:

Spindletop Elegante' Hotel
 Orange Sunset Grove
 Port Neches Pompano Club

Wednesday:

Groves Pompano Club

Thursday:

Port Arthur Holiday Inn Hwy 69
 Hardin County... Red Onion, Lumberton

Friday:

Nederland Holiday Inn Hwy 69

On-line: www.rotaryclubone.org
 (limit 3 times in each quarter)

REVIEW

Congressman Ted Poe brought us up to date on a variety of issues going on in our Nation's Capitol.

He gave us a list of issues he has been busy on, first telling us that the House has passed the Budget. Representative Poe voted against accepting the budget because it increases spending and increases taxes. The Senate Budget is different, but not available yet. He said the President will probably veto this budget. This budget would not extend current tax cuts, which results in a tax increase. In addition, it will eliminate the State Sales Tax deduction that Texas has to offset the deduction other states receive on their State Income Tax.

The Congressman told his that this budget means that anyone who is paying taxes will pay more taxes.

Next he covered the bill funding the Iraq war. Added to the bottom of that bill were many special "Pork" projects, which were added to get the bill passed. The bill also states the final day for U.S. Troops to leave Iraq. He named this the worst strategy possible in giving our enemies that exact time we plan to pull our troops.

Since Congressman Poe has been to Iraq he has first hand information on the main problems in and around Iraq, which are a result of the Sunni and Shiite factions in that area. Now with the reinforcement to our troops they can work with the Iraqi forces to eliminate these elements.

Our only logical choice in Iraq is to

finish the job and then bring our troops home. We do not need to repeat the error of Vietnam when Congress cut off funds and brought the troops home too soon. We left Americans in Vietnam because of our early withdrawal, a mistake we should not make again.

Iraq's neighbor Iran also makes it even more important that Iraq be able to defend their borders, since Iran has it sights set on the Iraqi infrastructure specifically their oil.

The single biggest concern he hears about from our area is border security. The problem exists because the Federal Government does not have the moral will to protect our borders. We must address this in three steps. Protect our borders by changing the rules of engagement there and have the National Guard active there.

The present system of allowing immigrants to illegally cross the border 6 times in Texas and 11 in Arizona before being prosecuted sends the wrong message.

Once we have stopped illegal entry then we can deal with immigration and find a way to take the complication out of hiring legal immigrants.

One of the biggest local issues he has been working on is the Sabine Neches River way. The Committee Chairman has mandated that the 4 studies now underway be completed this year and ours is one of those studies. Once that is done he can request \$900 million needed to fund the project in next year's Water Bill.

(Continued on page 3)

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SCHOLAR

Dear Rotary Club Members and Scholarship Committee,

It is hard to believe that I am already finishing my third year at Texas A&M University. Three years ago I was fortunate enough to be chosen for one of the scholarships given by the Rotary Club of Beaumont.

As I wrap up this third year I want to express how thankful I am for the Club's continued support. The financial toll of education can be overwhelming and each semester I am grateful to have the help of the Rotary Club.

With the support of my family and wonderful people like you, I am seeing my dreams come to life. I am now completing my junior year in Biomedical Engineering at one of the greatest universities in the nation.

Last summer and fall I was given the opportunity to work and learn at the Texas Heart Institute Cardiovascular Pathology Lab in Houston, Texas, and as this year ends I am continuing with my preparation for medical school.

I have been able to maintain a GPA of 3.5 and experience a unique blend of academics, volunteerism, research and general college life.

My most recent endeavors include being inducted into Kappa Theta Epsilon, a co-op honor society, and joining the Texas A&M Powerlifting Team.

Everything I have been able to accomplish has been because of the

BIRTHDAYS

11th Emelie Irving (98)
Executive Director,
Southeast Texas Food Bank



Born in Beaumont, she is a graduate of Lamar University. She and her husband Robert are the parents of Jessie and Jade, and are members of First Baptist Church. She enjoys running.

14th Chuck Heare (96)
Vice President, Investments,
UBS



Born in Stephenville, he is a graduate of Lamar University. He and his wife Janie are the parents of Emily and Ross, and are members of St. Andrews Presbyterian Church. He enjoys spending time with his family playing tennis and hunting.

15th S.L. Greenberg (68)
Partner,
Wells, Peyton, Greenberg, & Hunt



Born in Beaumont, he is a graduate of the University of Texas. He and his wife Natalie are the parents of Gary, Lisa and Phyllis, and are members of Temple Emanuel. He enjoys fishing. S.L. is a Paul Harris Fellow.

16th Bo Weinbaum III (78)
Owner,
Primco



Born in Beaumont, he is a graduate of Texas A&M University. He and his wife Melanie are the parents of Parker and Payton. He enjoys playing golf, cooking and hunting. Bo is a Paul Harris Fellow.

(Continued from page 2)

No child left behind is being reauthorized this year, but with an amendment to allow states to opt out of No Child Left Behind.

A major issue that is below the radar screen concerns the fact that when prosecutors convict illegals they then go before Immigrations and they attempt to send them to their home country, but those countries will not take them back. This leaves some 185,000 convicted criminals to be set free. We need a policy that states these countries must take back their citizens or lose aid from the United States and lose the right to secure visas for our country. Congressman Poe sponsored legislation to do just that.

Congressman Poe closed with a story about the Jeep he drives in Washington. When the President had completed his State of the Union address the Congressman presented a copy of that speech for this to sign. While President Bush was signing the document he commented that there was an oil spill in front of the White House and wanted to know if was that from "your Jeep"?

support I have received. Please know that your generous gift continues to help me each semester and I am truly thankful. Thank you for believing in me.

Shannon Eliasson
Spring 2004 Scholarship Recipient

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4
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