

Published by the  
 Rotary Club of Beaumont  
 Subscription price \$5.00 per year  
 Periodicals postage paid at Beaumont, Texas  
 Published weekly, except Christmas week, New Years  
 week & two unspecified non-meeting weeks  
 POSTMASTER: send address changes to  
 MCM Elegante' Hotel, Suite 213  
 2355 IH-10 South  
 Beaumont, TX 77705

USPS 471-700



Periodical  
 POSTAGE  
 Paid at  
 Beaumont, TX



# ROTARYgrams

Photo by Steve Buser

A Publication of the Rotary Club of Beaumont, Texas - Club 72

Vol. 96 No. 38, April 18, 2007

## ROTARIANS ENJOY CRAWFISH BOIL



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## HEAD TABLE



INVOCATION  
**BARBARA METZINGER**



PLEDGE  
**DOUG CONNER**



4-WAY TEST  
**JOE FISHER**



GUEST INTRODUCTION  
**ROBERT TURNER**

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**Future Programs**

APRIL  
 25<sup>th</sup> 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

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 (limit 3 times in each quarter)

**PAST PRESIDENT  
 JIM STOKES -  
 WEST POINT**



James M. (Jim) Stokes was born in Beaumont and graduated from Beaumont High School.

He attended Texas A&M University for one year before going to the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York and graduated in 1961. Jim also earned a Master's Degree in Applied Science from the University of California at Davis and an MBA from Fairleigh Dickinson. Jim was in the Army Corp of Engineers and was stationed in Vietnam, Germany and West Point during his 10 years in the Army.

Jim returned to Beaumont in 1974 with Bethlehem Steel and was active in many business and civic organizations including serving as President of the Beaumont Rotary Club in 1986-87. Jim served as President of the Beaumont Chamber of Commerce from 1986 to 1997.

He currently lives in Little Rock, Arkansas, with his wife, Dolly, who is Director of Entergy's Customer Service Centers and the Credit and Collections operations

*(Continued from page 1)*

Rotarians with their families and friends (some pictured on page 1) consumed nearly 300 pounds of crawfish at our Rotary Crawfish Boil Fellowship Event last Thursday at Munro's Community Center.

We wish to thank **Toby Castro** and **Chad Blanchard** for all of their efforts in the planning and staging of the event. Everyone there had a great time!

**REVIEW**

Last week our Rotarians visited four of BISD's elementary schools to evaluate firsthand the needs of our students being addressed by the proposed bond issue. We thank **President Gerald** and **Michael Wolf** for reporting on their experiences at Bingman and Martin.

About ten Rotarian's join the principal, Lisa Bolton, today at Bingman Elementary School, on the corner of Florida and South Kenneth streets, in Beaumont's South Park area. Built in 1951, we expected the building to be in terrible disrepair but, to the contrary, the school was in remarkably good condition. The floor plan was a duplicate of Sally Curtis Elementary in the west end of Beaumont, Mrs. Bolton told us. She attributed the good condition of the facility due to the quick response of the BISD Maintenance department and the pride and caring of each teacher on the campus. Basically, they took care of their school because "it was home to them."

Mrs. Bolton stressed that although Bingman is scheduled in the new plan by BISD to be merged with another larger school, teachers and parents alike felt that the smaller elementary school allowed for a more caring environment that offered a better education and student involvement. She said the recent test scores at Bingman back up her story. For several years Bingman has increased its ratings among the students in each category except science, which is anticipated to reach acceptable levels this year. Mrs. Bolton explained that it was the basic small scale of the school that kept it so successful. Smaller classes, better teacher interaction and parent participation was the driving force to the little school's success. Theresa Flatau, an administrator, spoke to us about Bingman's success story on a personal account due to the fact she had been at the school for 29 years! Her stories told of continued success and

*(Continued on page 3)*

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accomplishments the school posted for most of its existence.

In its heyday, Bingman had over 390 students on campus as opposed to 230 students currently. Most assuredly benefits from new corporate partners: P.D. Glycol Chemical, which has donated a variety of campus improvements to enhance the overall facility and the Jefferson County Appraisal District, whose employees are active in tutoring and mentoring on campus. Projects like the school's recently improved outdoor name and message signage, entry way park benches, landscaping and other worthwhile improvements that greatly enhanced the small school environment, not to mention bridging the budget shortfalls of the school district.

Maybe BISD is closing Bingman for the right reason: falling enrollment, declining neighborhood population, etc., but one thing is for sure. A small, proud, well-run and nicely maintained school is sitting right on the corner of Florida and South Kenneth Street without anyone knowing about it except the 230 elementary students, its dedicated teachers and administration and the thankful parents of Beaumont's South Park. What ten Rotarians saw was a small, nicely maintained school with a history of success and pride still determined to beat the odds.

Our visit to Martin Elementary reminded me of one of my 1<sup>st</sup> elementary schools, except that mine was 50+ years ago; and the only changes that had been made in all those years were some new paint in a few spots, an air conditioning system and internet services. The school doesn't have a fire sprinkler system or smoke detectors. Bathrooms look the same with stall doors missing and paper towel dispensers that don't work. Built in the 1940's, it appears to never have had a significant remodeling or modernization! Imagine 60 years of new technology and nothing got done! The A/C system is loaded with mold and

# BIRTHDAYS

**20<sup>th</sup> Doug Chase (98)**  
Vice President,  
JP Morgan Chase Bank



Born in Norwalk, Connecticut, he is a graduate of Stephen F. Austin State University. He is the father of Andrew and Edward and enjoys traveling, working out, skeet shooting and playing golf.

**20<sup>th</sup> Imad Sarkis (03)**  
Vice President - Sales Manager,  
Tri-Con



Born in Benin City, Nigeria, he is a graduate of Lamar University. He is a member of St. Michael's Greek Orthodox Church and enjoys cooking, hunting and travel.

**21<sup>st</sup> Allison Nathan Golias (96)**  
Financial Advisor,  
Merrill Lynch



Born in Austin, she is a graduate of the University of Texas. She is the mother of Lee and Buffin, and is a member of Temple Emanuel. She enjoys playing tennis.

the ceiling shows signs of holding water and some tiles are hanging.

How can we expect our children and teachers to do their best under these conditions?

We need new schools and we need to disseminate this message to our friends, family and associates. Together we can make a difference! Together we can cause the Bond Issue to pass! Think of it in the following way: The survival of future generations and the economic development of our City are at stake. We need to make the vision of the Bond Issue happen! "If not now, when?" (Hillel)

**21<sup>st</sup> George Pate (06)**  
District Executive,  
Boy Scouts of America



Born in Port Arthur, he is a graduate of Excelsior College. He and his wife Ivy are members of Cathedral in the Pines. He enjoys playing golf.

**23<sup>rd</sup> David Heinz (06)**  
Financial Advisor,  
Merrill Lynch



Born in Beaumont, he is a graduate of Lamar University. He and his wife Caroline are members of Trinity United Methodist Church. He enjoys playing soccer, cycling and running.

**23<sup>rd</sup> Jim McNicholas (84)**  
Attorney



Born in Michigan, he is a graduate of the University of Michigan. Jim is a Paul Harris Fellow.

**23<sup>rd</sup> Ryan Smith (92)**  
Executive Director,  
Texas Energy Museum



Born in Fort Worth, he is a graduate of Harding University and the University of Texas. He and his wife Peggy are the parents of Jennifer and Kenneth. He enjoys running, playing tennis, canoeing and backpacking.

**24<sup>th</sup> Jim Cook (04)**  
Owner, Delaware Animal Clinic



Born in Fort Worth, he is a graduate of Texas A&M University. He and his wife Linda are the parents of Travis and Amy, and are members of St. Marks Episcopal Church. He enjoys skiing, archery, outdoor activities and exercise.

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AT  
**6 and 10**

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