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ROTARYgrams

Photo by Steve Buser

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CAMP ENTERPRISE

For the first time in twenty-seven years of sponsoring Camp Enterprise, the committee has had to cancel this year's program due to lack of participants. We needed at least 40 participants to make the program work.

We sent information packets to both the principals and junior class counselors of sixty-five high schools throughout our Rotary District. The committee followed up the mailing by calling the high

(Continued on page 3)

CHICAGO BRIDGE & IRON

Next week's speaker will be Stan Spears, a representative of Chicago Bridge & Iron, the new owner of Trinity Island in the Neches River just east of downtown. The former location of Bethlehem Shipyard and more recently Trinity Industries, the 75-acre island is a quarter mile from Interstate 10 and accessible to marine and rail transportation, perfectly sited for CB&I's new industrial facility.

HEAD TABLE



INVOCATION
WALT SNIDER



PLEDGE
CHARLES COX



4-WAY TEST
VAN GREER



GUEST INTRODUCTION
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Future Programs

APRIL

4th Congressman Ted Poe
 11th School Visit Day (see page 3)

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

One of our own members, **David Teuscher** volunteered to serve on the Community Advisory Bond Committee to plan for the BISD bond issue. Thank heavens for Rotarians who volunteer for such demanding and complicated assignments. He claimed he could see a map of Beaumont with the schools noted in his dreams.

It all started with a meeting at the Beaumont Chamber in which solutions were sought to the school system that would accommodate and encourage economic growth in the area.

The committee agreed on six basic principals that needed to be addressed:

1. The need to build schools in neighborhoods that are expected to grow in the future.
2. The need to address badly needed repairs to existing schools.
3. The need to bring all schools up equal status
4. Assure equal access to athletic facilities for all schools.
5. Consolidate schools that were not used to capacity.
6. Have a school district that will attract new residents and fuel economic growth.

So David explained why the community must act now. He

said most of the school buildings in BISD today are more than 50 years old and they are expensive to maintain. There are also 220 portable buildings being used for classrooms. A total of 140,000 square feet of classrooms are temporary.

Other reasons to act now are that the state is now instituting a property tax relief plan that should reduce our tax rate from \$1.54 to about \$1.00 per \$100 valuation. The committee currently estimates the bond issue will require an increased tax rate to \$1.33 by 2010 which would still be less than the current rate. He also cited current low interest rates as a benefit.

In defense of one of the major objections to the bond issue David explained that the new stadium, which would seat 10,800 people, would replace three old stadiums. The old stadiums are expensive to maintain because of their age and the new stadium would qualify for UIL playoff games plus the facility would include a natatorium. The new complex would cost \$29.8 million to build, while the renovation of the old stadiums would cost \$19.5 million and they would still not have a natatorium.

He said we must find solutions and keep costs under control. They would rather offer less and deliver more. Thank you, David, for the excellent presentation.

**Wathen,
DeShong
& Juncker,
L.L.P.**

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ELEMENTARY SCHOOL VISIT DAY

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.

Kevin Roy began signing members up to visit the four elementary school in lieu of having a Rotary meeting that week. The schools are Amelia, Bingman, Caldwood and Martin.

Please sign up at the next two meetings and plan to see for yourself the conditions of our local schools.

(Continued from page 1)
schools, speaking with the counselors about Camp Enterprise and answering any questions they had about the program. Even so, we had only twenty-three applicants.

We had hoped to have more applicants than usual by moving the program from the first weekend to the last weekend in March that we

BIRTHDAYS

28th Robert Hambright (86)
Partner,
Orgain, Bell & Tucker



Born in Beaumont, he is a graduate of Southern Methodist University and Southern Methodist University School of Law. He and his wife Kathleen are the parents of Rosemary and Phoebe, and are members of Trinity United Methodist Church. He enjoys carpentry, hunting and fishing.

30th Jack Koch (06)
CEO,



Beaumont Metropolitan YMCA
Born in Fukaoka, Japan, he is a graduate of Minnesota State University at Mankato. He enjoys reading, playing golf, cooking and all sports.

1st Floyd McSpadden (83)
Partner,



Benckenstein, Norvell & Nathan
Born in Houston, he is a graduate of Southwestern University and Southern Methodist University School of Law. He and his wife Patti are the parents of Jenni

would avoid attendance conflicts with spring break. The committee will poll the schools to see if there is a better time to schedule Camp Enterprise next year.

and Fuller, and are members of First Methodist Church. He enjoys traveling and snorkeling. Floyd is a Paul Harris Fellow.

1st Leslie Patrick (06)
Human Resource Manager,
Stat Care EMS



Born in Jasper, she is a graduate of Texas A&M University. She and her husband Terry are members of First United Methodist Church of Groves. She enjoys watching football games.

2nd Cheryl Williams (99)
Executive Director,
Rape & Suicide Crisis Center



Born in Lafayette, Louisiana, she is a graduate of Southern University in Baton Rouge. She and her husband Claude are the parents of Kerston, Koren, Kyle and Kendrick, and are members of St. Pius Catholic Church. She enjoys wholesaling.

3rd Cindy Westfall (06)
Executive Director,
Junior Achievement of the
Golden Triangle



Born in Port Arthur, she attended Lamar University. She and her husband Kendall are the parents of is the mother of Crystal and Mallery. She enjoys traveling.

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