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ROTARYgrams

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GARY SAURAGE GATOR COUNTRY



Gary (pictured above with Big Al) was born in Cleveland, Texas in 1968 and grew up in Monroe, Lou-

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EARL HINES - T. KELSEY LAMB AWARD WINNER



HEAD TABLE



INVOCATION
STEPHANIE WILLIAMS



PLEDGE
ROD CARROLL



4-WAY TEST
BOBBIE APPLGATE



GUEST INTRODUCTION
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Future Programs

MAY

9th Chris Fisher - Port of Beaumont
 16th Youth Day

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

Our Club presented the T. Kelsey Lamb Business Ethics Award to U.S. Magistrate Judge **Earl Hines** for highest ethical standards represented by the Four-Way-Test. **Michael Clayton** used words such as integrity, fairness, truth, caring, listening to the heart and dedication when announcing Earl's award.

Earl was unaware of the award until he was joined at the lunch table by his wife Betsy and his entire office staff.

Congratulations, Earl: you are a well-deserving recipient.

Our speaker was Ben Jenkins, Vice Chairman and President of General Bank Wachovia Corp... With the acquisition of South-Trust Bank, Wachovia entered our market area in Texas, a market they see as a vibrant community with lots of positive energy and expansion plans.

Beaumont is one of the centers of the chemical hub for the entire country with \$15 billion in expansion project investments in the next few years and more to come.

Wachovia was proud to assist with the Rita recovery and will continue to help with these challenges. "It is simply good business to be a good citizen!"

Recognizing that each new market is different, their approach is a focus locally with a broad set of products best for the area. Decisions are made here on what works best for Beaumont and not at the corporate headquarters. Their motto is to be the best there is in Customer Service and to have the most loyal and satisfied customers! Simply stated: "Great Service drives Growth!"

The banking landscape has changed over the 10 to 20 years.

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CONGRATULATIONS!

Lee Freeland was named as a District Roll of Fame honoree at District 5910's Conference in Nacogdoches last week. Lee has served as the District's Group Study Exchange - Inbound Committee Chair for six years and has been very active in our club.

Robert Peavey was named one of two Outstanding Young Rotarians at the conference for his leadership and hard work organizing the District's new Hardin

County Rotary Club sponsored by our club.

Our Lamar Rotaract Chapter won the award for Best Student Organization in the Service category *for the third year in a row* at the annual Toast To Leadership awards banquet hosted by the Student Government Association. The chapter sponsors are **Donna Birdwell** and **Teresa Simpson**.

Bravo, everyone!

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& Juncker,**

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Emerging online banking, 24/7 service, non-traditional competition such as EBay and Wal-Mart, and consolidations have affected the market picture.

Twelve of the top 20 banks of the early 1990s no longer exist as mergers have been the rule rather than the exception. Globalization in banking continues as well and does offer a revenue basis in the world market.

Wachovia may not yet have enough roots in Beaumont but their customer service, investment in technology, new products, and good people will make them a good citizen.

We thank **Chuck Ege** for arranging the program and introducing the speaker and we were delighted to see Past President **Wilton White**, retired President and CEO of SouthTrust Bank.

(Continued from page 1)

isiana. As a boy, Gary developed a fascination with the American alligator that would last a lifetime.

Gary joined the United States Air Force upon graduating high school in 1987. After his four-year tour of duty Gary came back to southeast Texas and began a career in law enforcement working at the Orange and Chamber counties' narcotics task forces for several years. In 1993 Gary went to work for the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department where he developed an industry program for inmates. This program was very successful in several

BIRTHDAYS

2nd Dan Hallmark (84)

Retired



Born in Jacksonville, he is a graduate of Lamar University. He and his wife Jan are the parents of Wendy and Stephen, and are members of Calder Baptist Church. He enjoys hunting, fishing and travel. Dan is a Paul Harris Fellow.

counties across the United States.

As the years passed Gary was in the local rivers and bayous during alligator season guiding alligator hunts. People from all over the world go on alligator hunts with Gary. He has been involved with many studies of the American alligator. A few of the studies include tagging and tracking wild gators, captive gators and breeding programs as well as conducting studies of an actual catch and release program.

Today, Gary owns and operates Texas' only alligator theme park. Gator Country is 15 acres located at FM365 and IH10N. At Gator Country one will see over 120 alligators, several crocodiles and two giant alligator snapping turtles. Gary's on-going project is a 7700 sq. ft. restaurant built above the alligator pond. This project should be completed in October 2007. Gary's presentation will include a slide show and live animals in his presentation which should be exciting.

7th Lori Falk (94)

Senior Vice President, Texas State Bank



Born in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, she and her husband **John Johnson** are the parents of Jacob and Abigail, and are members of St. Jude Thaddeus Catholic Church. She enjoys playing racquetball and traveling. Lori is a Paul Harris Fellow.

8th Joe Fisher, Jr. (81)

Senior Vice President & Trust Officer, Texas State Bank



Born in Lufkin, he is a graduate of the University of Texas. He is a member of Trinity United Methodist Church. He enjoys playing tennis and golf. Joe is a Paul Harris Fellow.

8th Jerry White (91)

President, White Tire Supply



Born in Beaumont, he is an alumnus of Rice Institute and a member of the first graduating class of Lamar University School of Business Administration (cum laude). He and his wife Norma are the parents of Joe and David, and are members of First Christian Church. He enjoys traveling and reading. Jerry is a Paul Harris Fellow.

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