

Rotary

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Larry Morgan, chair of community service for the club. "For example, we've been involved with the new visitor information sign through the chamber of commerce and we had a blood drive last weekend."

Morgan, Nygaard and most of the other members are no strangers to Rotary.

The two were in Tyler's Sunrise Rotary together, and with their help, the club can finally stand on its own.

"We have a thriving Kiwanis club already in Bullard," Morgan said. "And they do great work in the community."

"We believe the addition of

Rotary gives more light to community service clubs."

While getting on its feet, the Jacksonville club helped out immeasurably, Morgan said.

"They offered everything - support, guidance, counsel, and even money," he said.

The next step for the club is a banquet celebrating its chartered status, which members said would likely happen at Eagle's Bluff Country Club in the next few months.

"It's rare to be a part of a brand new club," Morgan said. "And we're all very proud."

Rotary is a volunteer organization with over 32,000 clubs in over 200 countries and geographical areas.

The organization initiates humanitarian programs that address today's challenging issues, such as hunger, poverty, and illiteracy.

Rotary club members represent a cross-section of business and professional leaders worldwide.

These 1.2 million men and women donate their expertise, time, and funds to support local and international projects that help people in need and promote understanding among cultures.

Rotary's flagship program is its effort to protect children against polio, with the goal of ending the disease throughout the world.



-- Bullard Banner photo by Kelly Griffith

Bullard High School Principal Scott Franks presents a certificate to Bullard's newest Eagle Scout Stephen Head.

Eagle Scout earns recognition

Recently, Stephen Head was honored for obtain the Rank of Eagle Scout. Stephen was also presented with his Bronze and Gold Palm.

In less than two weeks, he will have fulfilled all of the requirements for his Silver Palm; scoutings highest honor and will be the first Eagle Scout in Bullard in more than 17 years to have earned the rank of Silver Palm.

Stephen holds the office of 1st Vice Chief of the 3

Rivers Lodge Order of the Arrow and is a Brotherhood member of the OA.

Stephen has earned over 33 merit badges during his scouting career from Cub Scouts, Tenderfoot, First Class, Second Class, Star, Life and now Eagle.

He has challenged himself; conquering his fear of heights, which he believes has been his greatest accomplishment by stepping backwards

off the 35 foot climbing tower at Camp Cherokee.

Stephen has further distinguished himself by being the troops only scout that attended the National Youth Leadership camp last year.

Instead of earning more merit badges, he chose to improve his leadership skills.

He has served in various positions but most recently has been our Senior Patrol Leader over the past eight months.

Plan

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students enrolled this year, asking myriad questions about what they would like to see, ranging from how parents chose to receive information, specific educational programs each would like to see initiated, best meeting locations, and contact information.

Using completed surveys as a guide, he's begun with the roundtable meetings - the first of which was held earlier this month. The discussions include pulling in students to sit in on the discussions.

Parent and intermediate schoolteacher Pam Frederick attended the first meeting, and she believes it's a good sign.

"It's good to know that Mr. Franks realizes that parental involvement doesn't end when kids get to high school," Frederick said.

And while the first was held on a Monday morning, Franks plans to stagger the meetings - both in time and date - so he can get a wider range of parents involved.

"We understand that everyone is busy," he said. "If they can't attend all, we want them to at least be able to attend some." The next discussion is set for 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 9.

But Franks doesn't take the credit for the programs he's implementing.

"Mr. Speaker prepared me well on the day-to-day operation of the school," he said. Leonard Speaker, former principal, retired at the end of the last school year.

"We may expand the discussions to hosting speakers," Franks said. "And we definitely want to focus on different ways to promote the school and more involvement."

Franks said he could already see changes.

"Teenagers are at a critical point in their lives when they're looking for independence, but they still need guidance," he said.

And much of the guidance he's focusing on is academic in

nature.

The school staff has extended its library hours, is working on getting laptops for students to check out and trying to brainstorm on a homework hotline - with various teachers available for assistance after hours - especially in the areas of math and science.

Franks said Hendrix has implemented a credit recovery program.

"It's still in its early stages," Franks said.

The program is only for Algebra students at this point, but Hendrix is working to expand it.

"We know when students fall behind in math, it's difficult - if not impossible - for them to catch up unless we act immediately," he said.

So the credit recovery program's immediate focus is on freshmen.

"That's where it starts," Franks said. "If they fail a six weeks, students have an opportunity to spend a week after school - devoting an hour a day - to catch up."

The school - by the suggestion of the students - has also added a science club and a student council.

"We're setting aside time for an assembly so that students running for office have a chance to speak on their platforms and ideas," Franks said. After that, elections will be held.

"This gives students a sense of ownership," Franks said. "When they have a sense of ownership, they do better in all areas of education."

Other things the staff has planned include an Internet safety program and lessons on study skills. They are also working on

an electronic newsletter and making better use of the district and school Web site.

But Franks believes it's a group effort.

"From the bus drivers who are usually the second adults to see our students every day to the staff and the teachers - it's a combined effort," he said. "We have a great group of teachers, too."

"There's a good mix of those with longevity - who give students a feeling of stability - to new ones who bring in fresh ideas, it's a good mix."

He also gives Superintendent Jim Wright and the school board members credit for backing him in bringing these things to fruition.

"They are all the unsung heroes," Franks said. "They are truly looking at what's best for all of us - the entire district."

"We teach to our level of expectations - no matter what career students choose they should leave Bullard High School prepared. We should be the propeller driving their success."

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