

July 24, 2006

## **This Week's Program**

*Building an Economy on Knowledge – Jim Bensen*

## **Next Week's Program**

*Classification Talk*

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### **Important Dates to Remember**

*Lake Bemidji Dragon Boat Festival* – August 4 & 5  
*District Conference* – Cragun's Resort, Brainerd – April 19  
– 22, 2007  
*Rotary International Convention* – June 17-20, 2007 –  
Salt Lake City, Utah

### **Welcome New Member**

Rob Bolinger  
Executive Director of Advancement  
Bemidji State University

### **Recent Rotarian Visitor**

Gene Gordon, Dubuque, IA

### **Playhouse Update**

We're nearing the 11,000 mark for ticket sales. Our goal is 20,000, so let's keep those ticket sales going!!!

### **Ryla Camp**

Chris Keenan reports that approximately 120 young people including three from Bemidji had a great experience at this year's RYLA Camp. "They are the future of Rotary," he said.

Is RYLA a mystery to you? Here's some information on the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards Program (RYLA):

Each summer thousands of young people are selected to attend Rotary – sponsored leadership camps or seminars in the United States, Australia, Canada, India, France, Argentina, Korea and numerous other countries. Locally, the camp was held for the 15<sup>th</sup> year in Crookston. In an informal atmosphere, groups of outstanding young men

and/or women spend a week in a challenging program of leadership training, discussions, inspirational addresses and social activities designed to enhance personal development, leadership skills and good citizenship.

The RYLA program began in Australia in 1959, when young people throughout the state of Queensland were selected to meet with Princess Alexandra, the young cousin of Queen Elizabeth II. The Rotarians of Brisbane, who hosted the participants, were impressed with the quality of the young leaders. It was decided to bring youth leaders together each year for a week of social, cultural and educational activities. The RYLA program gradually grew throughout all the Rotary districts of Australia and New Zealand. In 1971, the RI Board of Directors adopted RYLA as an official program of Rotary International.

### **Dragon Boat Report**

Registered teams for the big event on August 4-5 now number 32 with more expected. Shirts, hats, sweatshirts and other memorabilia are available. Many volunteers are needed to help make this successful. You can sign up today to help.

### **Rotary Around the World**

**Botswana club helps orphans:** The Rotary Club of Gaborone, Botswana, together with United States European Command, the First National Bank, and the U.S. Embassy of Botswana, raised US\$340,000 to help building Botswana's largest orphan day-care facility. The new Kamogelo Day Care Center provides meals, lessons, and activities to about 130 children orphaned by HIV/AIDS. The center features new classrooms, a playground, a dining hall, and a health clinic.