



The Ratchet



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Meets Mondays - 6:00 P.M. - Alton Sports Tap

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Circle of Care Honorees



Riverbend Head Start's [Circle of Care](#) event honoring Dr. Bob and Char Hamilton takes place May 12 at Lockhaven Country Club.

One of Bob's most notable contributions is his work on the Rotary mural project. After seeing the Hayner Library mural, he enlisted several Rotarians to meet with Laurie Milner of the Jennie D. Hayner

Association. Bill Moyer and Dr. Sharon Johnson, then Rotary president, were among them. By the time the project was in full gear, Mike Osborne, the community service committee chair, was on board. Char said her part on the project was answering Mike's calls early every morning! The working group also included Dr. Richard Jones, David Walker, Jasper Fischer, Richard Rook, Steve Cousley, and Rotary presidents. Other Rotarians contributed in many ways. "The talent of the people involved in Rotary really made the whole thing possible," Bob commented.

Dr. Bob still spends much of his time working on medical issues, particularly consumer driven health care reform. He participates in several policy organizations and has given more than 50 presentations to professional groups. Charlene Hamilton is active in many charities, particularly the American Cancer Society. The music lovers are founding members of the Great Rivers Choral Society. They enjoy travel and spending time with their family.

Their devotion to family and belief in education mesh perfectly with Riverbend Head Start's battle with childhood poverty. The agency uses education as a weapon, specifically early childhood education for kids under five, and parenting education for their moms and dads. The program includes physical, dental and mental care, nutrition education, and social services.

Rotary Programs



May 2 The Alton Sports Tap

Regular Meeting 6:00 PM. Our speaker will be Bill Iseminger, the Assistant Site Manager for the Cahokia Mounds State Historical Site in Cahokia. He will discuss the history of the site and the Native Americans who inhabited it. This program is highly recommended by those who have heard it.

May 9 The Alton Sports Tap

Board of Directors meeting, 5:00 PM.
Regular Meeting 6:00 PM. Students of the Month for May will be honored.

May 16 Rolling Hills Golf Course

Alton Godfrey Rotary Annual Golf Tournament. Shotgun start 1:00 PM.
Steak Dinner at 6:00 PM.

May 21-25 New Orleans, USA

Rotary International Convention

May 23 The Alton Sports Tap

Regular Meeting 6:00 PM. Program to be announced.

Student Essays

In this month's issue of *The Ratchet*, we are again focusing on original compositions by our students of the month.

Reality Check

by Courtney Twichell



Being a teenage girl is a tough thing to do. We girls have a lot of things on our plates! Personally, I live a life where I am daily juggling my family, friends, church, school, work, and extra-curricular activities. So understandably, I live a life that is go, go, go.

All the while I am trying to keep a sane mind.

We live in a world that has the same nonstop, always moving attitude that I do. It is considered lazy if one is not being productive every minute of every day. But when we live in a world that never stops, how can we? While I don't think that everyone should become indifferent, I do feel that we all need some reality checks. We need little moments to ground us and keep us sane in our busy lives.

A reality check can be as simple as taking an extra ten minutes to talk to a sibling, parent, or friend about their day. And for this to be a reality check and not just a time waster, you need to honestly listen to the other person. Another check could be silent time. Take a few minutes before bed to just relax and meditate. I like to spend my time in prayer.

There are many things you can do to keep yourself in check in your busy life, but I feel that the best reality checks come from others. I received one that has forever changed my life two summers ago. Every July, the Christian youth choir I am a member of, Encounter, takes a ten day tour. My sophomore year we traveled to Chicago. Encounter tour is the epitome of nonstop action. We move from sun-up to sun-down singing, performing community service, and enjoying the area. Toward the end of our tour, we were scheduled to help

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AFJROTC -What It's Really About

by Tevin Rose



I've been in AFJROTC (Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps) for three years. Most people think AFJROTC will only teach you military related information and will only benefit those who plan to join the military. It is true that

if you serve at least three years in AFJROTC and you enlist, you will be automatically become an E-3 upon successful completion of boot camp. You also learn basic military drills and customs. However, not everyone in the program plans to join the military after high school. Luckily for them, it teaches much more than just military related information.

That AFJROTC teaches discipline is without a doubt. But there is so much more to AFJROTC than just that. An AFJROTC cadet takes part in many different community service events ranging from Veteran's Home visits, and parades, to fund-raising for various worthwhile causes and community trash clean up days, as well as many more character and team building activities. In order to earn many of the ribbons within AFJROTC, you must be an active participant in not only these events but others as well.

AFJROTC have teams that compete with other schools' JROTC programs which are mostly really 'practices' for the big competition called the Gateway Drill Meet which has twelve schools competing this year. Another team we have which is fairly new is the Saber Team. This team does not compete in competitions like other teams. Instead, the Saber Team traditionally performs a time-honored, solemn ceremony for our nations POWs (Prisoners of War) and MIAs (Missing in Action) at great places such as VFW

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AFJROTC



(Veteran of Foreign Wars) Posts, American Legions, and even the Golden Corral. The Saber Team also performs the 'arches' at the Alton High School Graduation

Ceremony, and at the AFJROTC Awards Ceremony.

Another great thing one learns in AFJROTC is leadership. I, personally, have held over five leadership positions in the Corps, including Public Affairs Officer, Saber Team Commander, Flight Commander, and a variety of others. Believe it or not, these are actual military positions, and the leadership skills that you learn while performing them apply to civilian life as well. If it wasn't for AFJROTC, I don't think I would have gotten as far as I did in my selection to Premier Boys State, or the Student Leadership Conference in Springfield, IL. In order to be selected to these two events (although they taught leadership), you were required to have previous leadership experience. Thanks to my time in AFJROTC, I was covered there. So influential was my AFJROTC experience that I was chosen Drill Commander at Boys State. One of the best parts about this amazing program is all of the fun we had. Almost everyone in this program has a great attitude and everyone got along great.

Other fun events within AFJROTC include the annual Spring Trip. This year we went to Colorado Springs, CO, where we visited the both the Garden of Gods, and the Air Force Academy. We also visited other incredible Air Force bases and even got to see a B-2 Bomber--a highly specialized plane that very few get to see in person unless you work on an Air Force base, of course. Last year, some cadets even got to fly in a KC-135 plane. This one was really fun for me, because I had never been in a plane until then.

No, AFJROTC isn't just about training students for a career in the military, it also trains all its cadets for their future, be it civilian or military. They teach you how to make a career portfolio and tell you about many other career opportunities both in the military and outside of the military, ways to pay for college, and other important information for use in life beyond high school.

AFJROTC helped shape me into the student I am today. I owe a great deal of my success thus far in my young life to the Corps.

May 30 **No Meeting**

Memorial Day Holiday

Jun 6 **The Alton Sports Tap**

Regular Meeting 6:00 PM. Program to be announced.

Jun 13 **The Alton Sports Tap**

Board of Directors meeting, 5:00 PM. Regular Meeting 6:00 PM. Student of the Year will be recognized. High Schools will receive recognition plaques listing the names of the students who were recognized as Students of the Month during the 2010-2011 school year.

Jun 20 **Rolling Hills Golf Course**

Steak Fry at the Rolling Hills Golf Course Club House 6:00 PM. A golf outing will precede the meeting. Contact Richard Johnson for details.

Jun 27 **TBD**

Annual Meeting 6:00 PM. Induction of New Officers, Board of Directors, and Paul Harris Fellows. Roland Hansen will be passing the gavel to new president, Mike Tillman.

Bill Hoagland, Program Director



Reality



out a homeless shelter. Tensions were high because of the extreme heat, lack of sleep, and tremendous amount of work we knew was waiting at the shelter. The group was split up, and assigned different jobs. My small group actually worked inside the shelter, cleaning out unused rooms, washing floors, and cleaning the

bathroom. At first, the tasks seemed tedious, but then we started to meet the residents. I witnessed a woman washing her clothes in the small bathroom shower because it was her only option. I saw a girl drink from the dirty bathroom sink as if it were a water fountain. While working, several small children ran to us to ask if they could help. They were so oblivious to their living condition. They thought we were the coolest kids in the world for helping them out. This was my reality check.

I have such a wonderful, blessed life. I am given so much more than I deserve. Yet I catch myself complaining about inane things. They may not know it, but the people at Cornerstone Community Outreach gave me the reality check of my life. I am so grateful to them. So my request to you is to keep your eyes open! You don't want to miss your reality check!

Pecan Sales Report

John Rain

We have sold 1,865 # of pecans @\$9/bag	\$16,695
We bought 1,920# of pecans	12,364.80
Profit as of 4/7/2011	4,330.20
We have 65# of pecans left	585.00
Donations	90.00
Projected Profit	5,005.20

Rotary Youth Leadership Awards

Recently, our club sent four Interact students to a RYLA event at Camp Williamson in Carlinville, Illinois. These students are pictured below. They will attend our May 9 meeting to tell us of their experience.



Megan Meyer, Allison Brotherton, Jenna Mitchell, Brendan Lersch

Club Officers 2010-2011

President.....Roland Hansen
 820 Creekwood Lane, Godfrey, 466-1970
 Vice-President..... Mike Tillman
 1902 Paris Dr., Godfrey, 466-1928
 SecretaryJasper Fisher
 3885 Fosterburg Rd., Alton, 259-3177
 Treasurer Bob Hamilton
 4003 Stoneledge Court, Godfrey, 466-4362
 Executive SecretaryMelissa Seymour
 3026 Edwards St., Alton, 462-7206

Board of Directors 2010-2011

Mike Fitzgerald-1st yr
 Ebony Huddleston-1st yr
 Chuck Norman-1st yr
 Jeni Thompson-1st yr
 Pete Zimmer-1st yr
 Dick Jones-2nd yr
 Ron Mayhew-2nd yr
 Ken Spells-2nd yr
 Sam Stemm-2nd yr
 Gail Weinrich-2nd yr
 Mike Osborne-3rd yr
 John Rain-3rd yr
 Larry Spain-3rd yr
 Jess Woodman-3rd yr
 Ford Phillips-PP