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## Rotarians rock the Tri-County Area



Bell High School Interact Club officers are (from left) Secretary Rebekah Floyd, Treasurer Caitlin Anthony, Vice President Ty Powell and President Sarah Henderson.



Trenton High School Interact Club officers are (from left) Treasurer Nolan Frazier, President Alexis Haynes and Secretary Hailey O'Steen.

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## Story and Photos

By Jeff M. Hardison © Aug. 23, 2018 at 4:48 p.m.

**TRI-COUNTY AREA** -- With Wednesday's (Aug. 22) start-up of Interact Clubs at two Gilchrist County high schools, a significant fundraiser by the Rotary Club in Williston (Levy County) as well as the regular weekly Rotary Club of Chiefland meeting, and the visit of Rotary Club District 6940 District Governor John Medina to the Rotary Club of Dixie County, Rotary really rocked the Tri-County Area.



**United States Army First Sergeant (Ret.) Jon Meinholz, an instructor in the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps unit at Bell High School, is one of the two instructors at BHS for this club. He and Ag teacher Bill Martin helped the students that day have their first recital of The Four Way Test. The Four-Way Test**  
**The Four-Way Test is a nonpartisan and nonsectarian ethical guide for Rotarians to use for their personal and professional relationships. The test has been translated into more than 100 languages, and Rotarians (and Interact Club members) recite it at club meetings:**

**Of the things we think, say or do**

- 1. Is it the TRUTH?**
- 2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?**
- 3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?**
- 4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?**

**(A visiting journalist reminded the students that most Rotary Clubs add a fifth tenet – Is it fun?)**

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**Bell High School Interact President Sarah Henderson speaks about possible projects.**



**Bill Martin, one of the two BHS teachers for this club, tells listeners about what he expects from the club's members. He sees Interact reflecting the same high ideals that Rotary shows in the community.**

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**Rotary Club of Gilchrist County Past President Robert Clemons speaks about having fun in Interact Club, just as Rotarians have fun serving and helping other people. Sitting at the right in this picture is Gilchrist County Rotarian Sheila Smith, who attended to help students learn about Rotary and to show support by this club for the BHS Interact Club.**



**Gilchrist County Rotary Club President Aaron Haynes (at right, standing on the ground level) tells interested students at the Trenton High School Auditorium that the Interact Club once existed at Trenton High School and this is now a restart of that club. Sitting behind him on the stage are THS Interact Club Officers (from left) Treasurer Nolan Frazier, President Alexis Haynes and Secretary Hailey O'Steen. Interact President Haynes is the daughter of Rotary Club President Haynes. Interact Treasurer Frazier is the son of Dr. John Frazier, the Gilchrist County Rotary Club Secretary.**

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Interact is an international organization of service and social clubs for young people of secondary school age that fosters leadership and responsible citizenship and promotes international understanding and peace.

The name was created by combining the words "international" and "action." It is the high school version of Rotary Club, which is for adults.

Interact gives students ages 12- to 18 years old the chance to make a real difference while having fun. Every Interact club carries out two service projects a year: one that helps their school or community and one that promotes international understanding.

Clubs are sponsored by their local Rotary club. When a club sponsors an Interact club, the members of that Rotary Club are helping young people:

- \* connect with community leaders;
- \* develop leadership skills;
- \* make international connections; and
- \* discover more opportunities to connect with Rotary, including Rotaract, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, and Youth Exchange.

## **BELL HIGH SCHOOL INTERACT CLUB**

At its inaugural meeting, the Interact Club of Bell High School already had its officers in place.

This resulted from some late fall work by the Rotary Club of Gilchrist County visiting BHS and speaking with students and teachers.

The teachers responsible for the Interact Club of Bell High School are United States Army First Sergeant (Ret.) Jon Meinholz, an instructor in the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps at BHS, and Bill Martin, the ag teacher who has taught agricultural classes at BHS for 26 years.

The BHS Interact Officers are President Sahara Henderson, Vice President (President-elect) Ty Powell, Treasurer Caitlin Anthony and Secretary Rebekah Floyd.

First Sgt. Meinholz explained to the 22 students showed up to potentially join Interact that this club will be responsible for a local community project, for participation in an international project and to make a video of their club's work during the year.

Members of this club, he said, must be of the highest caliber of student. There are mandatory minimum grade point averages and other criteria to be a member of Interact at Bell High School.

Martin reiterated that it is not anticipated that Interact will be the largest group in the school. He said there are 100 FFA member, and 20 of those members do all of the work.

"What we want is to have a group of 15 to 20 people who do everything," Martin said.

Interact will be the club to be a member of, he said, if the student is making good grades, is ready to be active in the community.

This Interact Club, Martin said, will be like the Rotary Club. It will have members who put service before self. These members will want to see positive results from projects, and the Interact members will have fun while attaining the goals they set for themselves individually and as a group.

## **TRENTON HIGH SCHOOL INTERACT CLUB**

The Trenton High School Interact Club was missing a teacher during its first meeting.

Nevertheless, Gilchrist County Rotary Club President Aaron Haynes and Gilchrist County Rotary Club Past President Robert Clemons were present to help the students hear about this sponsoring club's role.

Trenton High School Interact Club officers President Alexis Haynes, Secretary Hailey O'Steen and Treasurer Nolan Frazier, helped other students take the steps to become involved in the

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club as members.

Both Interact Clubs are looking generally at improving literacy, fighting hunger locally and abroad, and the Bell club is potentially going to consider working with a church to create wells in third-world nations so that people will have better access to drinking water.

## **WILLISTON ROTARY CLUB**

The Rotary Club of Williston is a force to be reckoned with.

This club helps clothe children, gives away paperback dictionaries, and helps in the fight against polio – and much more!

As a result of the Jail and Bail event on Wednesday, the club raised in excess of \$10,000 for its worthwhile community projects.

Matt Brooks, a Williston Rotarian, was very active in this fundraiser.

He noted this event on Wednesday showed almost double the traditional fundraising that typically brings in \$4,000 to \$5,000.

Not only was the record broken for overall net, but the past top fundraising record for an individual was broken too.

Williston Mayor Emeritus R. Gerald Hethcoat previously held the record for having the highest “bail” amount posted for him. That previous high point was \$1,200.

This year's event brought forward two individuals that went above and beyond this record. Terance Reed, a candidate for Levy County Commission District 2 raised the record high to \$1,900.

Judi Yaeger, Williston local business owner, came in with a close second at \$1,550, Brooks noted in an email.

“This event proved to be successful for 2018 with almost 30 people being summoned to appear and more than \$10,000 collected,” Brooks said.

People familiar with Williston know there is a big event coming in October.

The Rotary Club of Williston asks people to mark their calendars for Oct. 6.

To kick-off the Williston Peanut Festival, this Rotary Club is having its annual run/walk to benefit the children of the community. The event is known as the 6th Annual Purple Pinkie Peanut Run.

It is a 5-kilometer fun run-walk that is a fundraiser.

## **DIXIE COUNTY ROTARY CLUB**

The Rotarians in Dixie County enjoyed a visit from Rotary Club District 6940 District Governor John Medina during the regular weekly meeting at the Dixie County Library in Cross City on Aug. 22.

As always with this club, a good time was had by all.

## **CHIEFLAND ROTARY CLUB**

And as is the case with Wednesday afternoons in Chiefland, the Rotary Club of Chiefland met at The Gathering Table Restaurant on Aug. 22.

On Thursday (Aug. 23), as is the weekly tradition, the **Suwannee Valley Rotary Club** met at the Community Building at Haven in Chiefland. And it too showed a bunch of Rotarians having a good time and helping the community.