

## *Steve Brock Is Presented Past President's Plaque*

## **Brett Smith Takes Office as President of McAlester Rotary Club**



Brett Smith, right, took office last week as the new president of the McAlester Rotary Club. Bruce Hall was the installing officer for all the new officers and directors. President Brett presented a Past President's Plaque to Steve Brock, left. Brock thanked all the club members for their help during his term. Smith said the national slogan for this year is "Make Dreams Real." He asked that members this fiscal year keep a "net number" of members. That means the club would replace every member who drops out. Smith said through his training, he "got to see what Rotary accomplishes world-wide."



ROTARY LEADERS FOR 2008-09-Officers Jim Henley, left-front, Secretary-Treasurer; Past President Steve Brock; new President Brett Smith; and President-Elect Mike Lowber pose for a picture at last week's Installation of Officers. On the second row are directors who were installed, from left, Gary Boyd, Betty Talley, Loise Washington, and Shayne Javersak. Karl Scifres, not pictured, is the new Vice-President.

INSTALLATION PHOTOS BY GEORGE LAMPTON

## **Lake Needs Tourism Support From McAlester Says Director**

McAlester profits from Lake Eufaula tourism, but the Lake Eufaula Association needs support from McAlester, LEA Executive Director Connie Morris told us June 10.

Ms. Morris told us various activities on the lake, sponsored by the Lake Eufaula Association, from fishing tournaments to the Golden Eagle Boat Poker Run last weekend. The Poker Run had 278 entries and first place paid \$10,703.

Entries cost \$200 and each entrant received six cards and a hat and T-shirt.

The Muscogee-Creek Nation has purchased the old Fountainhead Lodge and will tear it down to build a new casino. Tearing down the old lodge will start at the end of July, and construction on the new casino will begin when the Creeks finish their Tulsa Casino.

Ms. Morris told about the Inspiration Gardens, which Leon Logan and his wife Brenda, design and maintain. Mr. and Mrs. Logan retired in the Lake Eufaula area and made a ship-shaped flower bed for Eufaula Cove. He also made a red and white flower bed for Sooner Fans.

As Curator, he speaks at various groups and makes a flower bed for them when they make donations. The Red Hats have a hat-shaped flower bed and a high heel with red flowers. It is located on Main Street, next to the Lake Eufaula Association Office, just south of Braum's.

The Collegiate Bass Anglers Association Big 12 Championship was held over the weekend on Lake Eufaula. Oklahoma State hosted the event.

Results were not available for the Rotary Newsletter.

Ms. Morris said a Multi-Cultural Center featuring all the Indian Tribes is being planned. A drawing will be held July 26, to raise money for it. The event will be on Whole Hawg Day in Eufaula, and a 2008 Mini Cooper will be given away, or \$30,000 cash. Tickets are \$100.

Concerts are also being held during the summer. A concert featuring Lynyrd Skynyrd will be held in Eufaula Cove, behind Braum's on Saturday, July 5.

Tickets are available at Eufaula Food Market or online at [gettix.net](http://gettix.net).

## **Girl Scout Council Is Expanding To 30 Counties**

Karen Morgan, Girl Scout CEO told us June 3 that the Girl Scouts "Magic Empire Council" of 13 counties is expanding to 30 counties and is now the Girl Scouts of Eastern Oklahoma.

The staff has been rehired and two new staff members have been

hired. They are a Membership Executive and a Development and Program Executive. Dorothy E. Kennedy is the Community Advocate Executive.

See Girl Scout Council on Page 2

# Renegar Gives Report On House Bills, Explains Error



Rep. Brian Renegar

Rep. Brian Renegar, a club member, told us last week about current water legislation and other bills passed by the Legislature, and also explained how news reporting on House voting got confused at one point this session.

A wire service reporter wrote a story saying Rep. Terry Harrison was not present when Renegar and others House members voted for him.

Renegar explained that Harrison, from McAlester, is a "Caucus debater," which may require him to debate the House view on legislation or discuss it

with agency heads.

While he is in such discussions, the House provides a way for him to step out and wave to a legislator he has designated to vote for him, when there is a vote on House matters, while he is busy doing debating for fellow legislators.

Renegar listed several House members he has voted for, while they were off the House floor, following the rules which the House has set up. Three times he has voted for the Republican Floor Leader, following the rules for such voting, Renegar said.

A Tulsa House member may have voted for Harrison twice, without his proper waving each time, although "Harrison was there," Renegar explained.

On current legislation, Brian said some people in the Lake Sardis area want to sell water, and some cities in the state may want to buy it.

"We were told the debt on Lake Sardis (to the federal government) would be paid off this year," The local legislator said.

Brian said he feels "there is nothing to worry about" on any reports

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## Girl Scout Council from Page 1

Ruth Harkins and Barbara Monto are Council Members from McAlester. Also Council Members are Suzanne McFarlane from Ada and Miriam Costillo of Hugo.

McAlester will be the headquarters of the 30-county group. The headquarters is in Chaney Park. It has 6,000 square feet, so it can serve as a place for visiting Girl Scouts to stay overnight or for Day Camps.

Ms. Morgan said a Rappelling Camp was held with certified Rappelling instructors, at Robbers Cave State Park.

A similar instruction is being developed for Science, Math and

of sales of water to Texas. There are enough rural legislators who are concerned about the possibility, to take action to stop it, if needed.

In addition, he said, the House asked members of Congress for legislation that would stop states from buying water from another state without a conservation plan.

Brian added that if Southeastern Oklahoma sold water to Texas, it could expect a lawsuit from the Texas municipalities due to the salt in the water.

One objection the state lawmakers had was that even if the value of water jumped in the future, the price paid to Oklahoma would not go up.

The main part of new state financing came from state bonds, in the amount of \$470,000,000. Part of it went to state roads and bridges, and part of it went to universities. Part of it also will go to build an American Indian Cultural Center.

Other bills would allow county commissioners to declare a Fire Ban; reduce child obesity and diabetes, and to put defibrillators in state schools.

Another House bill would allow wineries to sell less than 100,000 gallons per year directly to restaurants and liquor stores, rather than through liquor wholesalers.

The "right to hunt and fish" was made a constitutional amendment, to emphasize the importance that both sports play in state tourism.

A Quality Jobs Act was passed that allows cities to use part of the funds to attract professional sports teams, this year.

Other legislation would teach financial literacy in public schools, including the handling of credit cards and renting versus buying a house.

One money bill financed the Regional Health Department, which opened here Friday, although Renegar said the cost was well above usual county health department budgets.

A sales tax for the Wellness Center in McAlester would go off when the time voted for it runs out. City officials believe that will be in October.

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Computer Science.

Summer Girl Scout trips are being held this summer to Alaska, Scotland and Puerto Rico, she said.

Gold Awards and Silver and Bronze Awards are to be awarded in connection with the summer activities.

The McAlester United Way added \$9,063 to the 2008 Girl Scout Council budget. Fund raising events also are planned this summer, Ms. Morgan said.

Some of the best friends you make in life, are made at Girl Scout events, Ms. Morgan said.

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## Attendance, Visitors During June

There were 42 at last week's meeting. Valerie Ogdon was a guest of Iva Due; Linda Lowber was a guest of Mike; and Suzanne Smith was a guest of President Brett.

There were 37 attending the meeting June 17. Boyd Bass was a guest of Bruce Hall and LaDonna Howell was a guest of Steve Smith.

On June 10 there were 36 at the meeting. Aaron Cooper and Sam Sims were guests of Jim Henley. Macey Panach was also a guest. All were from Oklahoma City.

On June 3, there were 49 present. The speaker was the only

guest.

HANDSHAKERS-On June 24, Jim Thompson gave \$1 to Greg McNall. June 17, Ronnie May gave a buck to Evans McBride. On June 10, Noble Miller gave the buck to Richard Lerblance. And on June 3, Betty Talley gave \$1 to Cliff House. (Do you think any of it went to the church?)

On June 17, Kelly Martin drew the card and reportedly got a 10. Jim Northcutt drew a card the week before. And Gary Boyd drew a card sometime. But no one drew a joker during June. So the money is still there?