

# Our own 'Music Man'

I'd never heard of Steve Barton until I was working on his obituary. Later, I wrote about a piano dedicated to Nederland High School in his honor. Barton was one of those folks like Port Arthur-born artist Robert Rauschenberg. He was known more elsewhere than in his own town.

Barton, who starred in some of my all-time favorite productions abroad, will again be honored through the local production of "The Music Man."

The Steve Barton Musical Theatre Project honors the former resident who achieved international success in musical theatre. Students and community leaders will share the stage in the production, set for 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, June 25 and 26, at the Nederland High School Performing Arts Center, off Spurlock Road. Admission is \$5 at the door. The musical is a Nederland Independent School District Summer Recreation Program.

Barton, born in 1954 and died in 2001, grew up in



**COMMUNITY SCOOP**

Darragh Doiron

Nederland and played roles with Swiss, German and Austrian theater companies. He appeared in "Godspell," "The Fantasticks," "Jesus Christ Superstar," "Evita," "Guys and Dolls" and "Camelot," before playing the role of Munkustrap in the original Vienna cast of "Cats" and originated the role of Raoul in Andrew Lloyd Webber's "The Phantom of the Opera" in London."

## Just the facts

What do you love about Port Arthur? Newcomers will get some tips on hot spots in the city in the Port Arthur News Fact Book, set

to appear in Sunday's newspaper. Updating the fact book for info on school districts, city government, parks, etc. is a time-consuming task for reporters, but we all enjoy sharing the news on the area's attractions and festivals.

One of my favorites is the sea wall. I take a walk along the pink granite-lined waters every chance I get. I'm not alone. Other fans are always there feeding seagulls or getting in their steps.

## More shopping at Parkdale Mall

Makeup and more awaits shoppers at new Parkdale Mall leasings. Mall officials announced the mall has leased 70,236 square-feet in new retail space in the past five months. The mall reports Ashley Furniture built out over 26,000 square-feet near Macy's and Kaplan University opened as an out parcel near Parkdale Crossing taking over 30,000 square-feet; Earthbound Trading Company will go in the Dillard's wing and is

projected to open near the end of June; Beauty superstore, ULTA will take over a portion of the previous Old Navy location adding a new exterior entrance, and plans a fall opening; Old Navy has relocated to the former Steve & Barry's Sportswear site to remodel and open a new prototype store; 4 Tip to Toe Nail Salon has relocated to a space in front of the wooden court under the name Elegant Nail Salon; Capturing the remaining area of the former Old Navy location at Center Court will be American Eagle Outfitters."

## More mall news:

Buckle is remodeling their current location and capturing a portion of the former Limited Too store. They are currently open in a temporary location in the Sears wing. Limited Too, now Justice has taken t space next to XXI - Forever 21. Wet Seal completed a remodel in May.

[ddoiron@panews.com](mailto:ddoiron@panews.com)