

Nederland ISD presents 'The Music Man'

June 25, 26 at NHS Performing Arts Center

The Nederland Independent School District summer recreation program recently launched the Steve Barton Musical Theatre Project, a summer program for high school students that exposed participating NISD students to creating sets, costumes and props in the mornings and rehearsing in the afternoons for three weeks in a summer-stock environment.

The culmination of this project, named for Broadway musical star Steve Barton who attended Nederland High School, is a production of Meredith Willson's "The Music Man" on Friday, June 25, and Saturday, June 26, at 7:30 p.m. in the NHS Performing Arts Center.

"Kim Williams is the director, and ever since we acquired the Performing Arts Center we thought what a shame that facility sits there all summer," said Renee Kloes, producer of the play. "We thought someone should do something about it, and then we decided that someone should be us.

Kloes said that it was then that they decided to use the facility in the summertime and provide kids an interesting and fun opportunity to learn.

"Our goal was to do something different in this area, a summer-stock production. They have a lot of summer-stock productions in the northeast, where each production has a one week turnaround.

The cast of Nederland alumni includes Matthew Taylor in the lead role of Harold Hill, the fast talking salesman; Angela Pickering as the conservative librarian Marian Paroo; Wynelle Guidry as Marian's meddling Irish mother Mrs. Paroo; and Nederland City Councilman Bert Rogers making his stage debut as Mayor Shinn.

The Tony-Award winning production features such hit songs as "Goodnight My Someone," "Til There Was You," "Shipooopi" and "Seventy-Six Trombones."

Curtain time for both Friday and Saturday productions is 7:30 p.m., and tickets are available at the door for \$5.

Nederland High School Performing Arts Center is at 220 17th St. in Nederland.

— Lucy Biebel