

## THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 2025 YAKIMA CONVENTION & EVENT CENTER

*The Magic  
 Of Rotary*



### JD BEWLEY THE FRANCHISE: GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY, FAMILY LEGACY & THE MCDONALD'S JOURNEY



JD Bewley is a proud McDonald's Operator and owner of Clone & Buck Companies. With 14 years in the McDonald's system - and now leading 12 restaurants (soon to be 13) between the Luring/Bewley organizations, JD brings a bold, modern perspective to what it really means to run one of the most iconic brands in the world. His path to franchising wasn't traditional. He started in Chiropractic care before stepping into the world of burgers, business ownership, and building high-performing teams.

Locally, he is deeply invested in the Yakima community, serving and supporting the next generation of civic and business leaders. He currently sits on the boards of United Way, Ronald McDonald House Charities, Yakima Chamber of Commerce, Iowa State University C.G.C., and is a member of Leadership Yakima's Executive Committee. He also represents our local region and other operators nationally as they shape the future of the McDonalds Business. He is currently working with the McDonalds national and field office teams to provide scalable solutions and a marketing & operations system to help drive strategy adoption with innovation on digital platforms and customer service.

JD will be sharing the journey to becoming a McDonald's Owner/Operator - from the challenges, the lessons, and the leadership it takes to run a multi-unit organization. If you've ever wondered what it takes to become a franchisee or lead within one of the world's most recognized brands, this is the inside story on The Franchise.

#### FOR THURSDAY'S MEETING

- Greeters – Mike Maples
- Inspiration – Tim Teusink
- Sergeant-at-Arms – Kathy Miller Parrish
- Program – Jan Luring
- Attendance – Bob Romero

#### FUTURE PROGRAMS

- April 24th – Best-Selling Author Robert Dugoni
- May 1st – Jarod Higginbotham, Yakima Bait
- May 8th – Sam Cho, Port of Seattle

#### SCHOLARSHIP DINNERS WILL BE STARTING SOON!



Have you picked your date(s) for our Scholarship Dinners? You have a choice of any date from Thursday May 1st through Saturday, May 10th. Fun themes scheduled include a kid friendly dinner, vegetarian dinner, and Cinco de Mayo dinner. The cost is \$125 per member and includes your spouse, significant other, or friend with all the proceeds going to benefit our Academic and Vocational Scholarship program. All members will be charged whether they attend a dinner or not. There is no charge for hosts.

Call or email the Rotary office today to reserve your space. You will be treated to a great meal and the best conversation in a fun, informal setting.

## “ROTARIANS AT WORK” DAY!

SATURDAY, APRIL 27th

9:00am to noon

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED! Four more volunteers are needed at the Welcome to Yakima Sign weeding, trimming, and spreading bark. Six additional volunteers are needed at Sarg Hubbard Flower Garden to weed, prune, and spread bark; and 10 more volunteers are needed at Rotary Lake to clean up along the pathway and shore.

Mark the date on your calendar, let the Rotary office know you're coming, invite your family and friends to join in, and together roll up our sleeves to make our community beautiful. Many hands make light work!



# Celebrate our Mollie Davis Scholars!

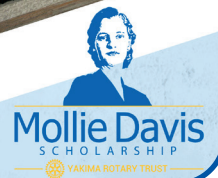
Mollie Davis Scholarship Awards Ceremony

Monday Kaminski  
June 16th Conference  
5-6:30 pm Center

*Light  
appetizers  
served*



RSVP:  
[robinbeckett@yakimarotarytrust.org](mailto:robinbeckett@yakimarotarytrust.org)



## REVIEW

This week's program featured Adam Ratliff, an independent journalist and filmmaker who is also the executive director of an educational nonprofit, The Center for Sustainability and Working Rivers. The topic was the Lower Snake River Dams, the most impactful Pacific Northwest environmental issue today. The removal of four Lower Snake River Dams is something that you hear in the news all the time. While they are not part of the Yakima Basin and don't touch any of the crop lands in our Valley, the issue of the Lower Snake River Dams is closely linked to what happens to our economy. We are not hearing talk about the removal of our local dams or diversions, but it may be just a matter of time.

We live in a time our ancestors dreamed about with the ability to transform dry climates and make them lush, and the existence of an abundance of energy. Water storage in the Yakima Valley began in 1905. Teddy Roosevelt created the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation who came here and built a ton of storage and diversion dams. Most of the infrastructure that moves water through the Yakima Valley was built in the first half of the 20th century. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers followed with the construction of over 60 major projects in the Columbia River Basin; each one different - some of them block fish passage, some of them don't.

What are the reasons for the focus on the demolition of the four Lower Snake River Dams? (1) The dams are old, (2) The dams produce very little power, (3) The dams block access to habitat, (4) The dams' benefits can be easily replaced, and (5) The only solution is to breach. None of it is true! The last dam was built in 1975 with the newest and most well-maintained infrastructure of its kind in North America. They produce an enormous amount of power; one has enough capacity to power Eastern Washington. They don't block habitat; they have had state of art fish passage facilities since day one. If you add up kilowatt hours, it equals the City of Seattle in one year. If transportation of goods moving up and down the river is converted to rail and trucks, the fuel consumption and resulting pollution would create a negative CO2 impact one and a quarter higher than the City of Seattle currently produces. Adam believes that it is not about the Lower Snake River Dams. If you can say all those things about the Lower Snake River Dams that don't block salmon habitat, those same criticisms could apply to almost every single dam or diversion. The reason for the focus is that those dams are politically vulnerable. They are located in a part of our state that is not well traveled, they are far away from

cities, and it is easy to spread misinformation when hardly anyone goes there. The argument will always be with them gone, what's one more and one more. That scenario is happening right now on the Klamath River. Four dams that did not affect irrigators were removed on the Klamath River. Last year, Oregon public radio shared that there are still two more dams that do irrigate ¼ million acres blocking the headwaters.

The removal of the dams is not a dire situation but will be if we do nothing. Demolition of the Snake River Dams would result in an enormous net loss for our local economy, regional environment, and global climate. The conversation can't be left versus right, and team blue versus team red. It needs to be about a pragmatic decision based upon living in reality. Regardless of what you feel about climate activism, we all agree that we should clean up after ourselves and that we don't want to see an increase in carbon emissions through the replacement of clean energy with fossil fuel. The solution is to get out of partisan echo chambers, a willingness to move to the center, and to get behind the dams for the sustainability not only of our economy, but our environment. It was a great conversation that included lots of questions. If you want to hear more you can visit Adam's YouTube channel Armchair Engineer and on Facebook, Instagram and TikTok.

What else happened? Clark Permann served as our greeter. Kurt Labberton shared a beautiful story about the importance of touch. President Jim welcomed our guests and encouraged members to sign-up for the Jobs for Youth Career Fair on April 30th, participate in "Rotarians at Work" Day on Saturday, April 26th, and to attend the Yakima Rotary Trust Mollie Davis Scholarship Awards presentation on June 16th at the YVC Conference Center. President Elect Sheri Bissell promoted the upcoming Scholarship Dinners from May 1st through May 10th. Don't forget to choose your date(s). The cost is \$125 per member whether you attend a dinner or not. Jim Berg shared a music themed sergeant-at-arms - everyone knows how much President Jim loves music. Brad Hansen had the honor of introducing our speaker with the Masters theme song playing in the background. Thank you to everyone who helped make the meeting a success!



# THANK YOU TO OUR ROTARY AUCTION SPONSORS!

## Platinum



## Gold



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## Bronze

