the Tooter

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Unite For Good

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2025
NO MEETING

FUTURE PROGRAMS

December 4th – Danielle Oristian York, Growing Greatness, Teaching the Next Generation

December 11th – John Canzano, College Sports in the Northwest

December 18th – Holiday Bingo Party

December 25th – No Meeting, Happy Holidays

PROPOSED NEW MEMBER

Unless written objection is received by the Board by Friday December 28, 2025, the following candidate will be elected to membership:

Jane Sobottka
Wealth Advisor
Columbia Wealth Advisors
Classification: Financial Advising
Proposed by: Ricky Adams
Endorsed by: Connie Falon

ROTARY BELL RINGING

Rotary Bell Ringing Week is starting soon at four locations across Yakima on Saturday, December 6th for one day and again from Tuesday, December 9th through Saturday, December 13th: Wray's 56th, Rosauers, Fred Meyer North, and Fred Meyer Grocery. With four shifts a day at each location from 10am to noon; noon to 2pm; 2pm to 4pm; and 4pm to 6pm, we have a total of 96 slots to fill.

Signups began a week ago, and as of press time today, we are off to a great start with 52 shifts already filled. If you have not had the opportunity to choose a shift, now is the time to check your calendars and use the on-line link sent to your email to sign up. You can invite a friend or family member to join you. Sharing the gift of time brings hope to those in need.

REVIEW

It was an extraordinary day from the beginning to end as we celebrated Native American Heritage Month. It started with a debut performance of The Little Swans. Their name comes from the legend of a time when swans stopped to rest at Lake Chelan and bestowed a woman there the gift of dance and song. Ranging from 5 years old to 14 years old, they danced for us, and shared their stories, the dresses they had a part in making, and their names both in English and their native language.

John Adkison introduced our newest member and daughter, Kate Urwin. Kate was born and raised in Yakima. She graduated from Eisenhower High School where she excelled in track and went on to Central Washington University where she became a part of the women's rugby team. After completing a degree in Sociology and Criminology, she joined United Way of Central Washington before stepping away to raise her 2 sons who are 13 and 11. When she returned to the workforce, she joined People to People where she was instrumental to the 211 system statewide during the Covid pandemic. Today she is back at United Way serving as Director of Development. She is married to Chad; they are immersed in their boys. They enjoy the outdoors, family movie nights, and traveling. Kate grew up in Rotary with her dad and grandfather. We are so happy to have her as part of our club to continue her family's legacy.

Kyle Curtis had the honor of introducing our guest of honor, his grandfather Kip Ramsey as a proud Yakama Nation member, accomplished businessman, historian, teacher, leader and husband of 59 years with countless accolades that include twice prevailing with court cases rising all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court with the most recent being Washington State Department of Licensing vs. Cougar Den regarding the Yakama Nation's right to travel on public highways under the 1855 treaty. He is a founding member and board member of Heritage University, contributes to the Boys & Girls Clubs of various tribal communities across our state, and supports tribal families in time of need.

With a conversation moderated by John Baule, Kip began by sharing the lives of Native Americans prior to 1855. The Yakama Nation has already been dear to him. The legacy and traditions are the essence of the Yakama people. Pre-history the number of Native people in this area numbered in the hundreds of thousands. The landscape of the Northwest provided readily available food from the coast to the inland empire and the mighty Columbia River. Called Nchi Wana, the Columbia was the lifeline of the people; it is sacred. The flow of the river at one time would be equal today to 9 million gallons of water every second. It was the mainstay for people; it is why the population was so large and why there were so many horses. It allowed the people to raise food and trade. When the Dalles Dam went in, it was a hard time for the Yakama people. The Celilo Falls disappeared underwater. The U.S. built the dam because of the early floods of 1894 which wiped out cities below Portland; 1,000's of people died. Above the Dalles was a place called the Long Narrows, an area of basalt crevices. It was a great source of fishing; the fish would stop and rest in this area on their way to spawning grounds. It was place of trade. Before the land disappeared underwater, archaeological dig sites went down 30 feet and could have gone further. They found artifacts that included flagstone from Minnesota, copper from Michigan, turquoise from the Southwest, and Italian shells from Victoria Island. If the dig had been allowed to continue, we would have found the one of greatest dynasties of people in the U.S.

The Columbia River also brought disease. The first European contact and epidemic came pre-1700. When smallpox came through, 3 out of every 5 Yakama people died. It changed history and allowed the Treaty of 1855 to exist. Native homes and land were taken, and the people were told they had to live within the reservation. They didn't trust what was happening and didn't understand. The Treaty was signed and history went on. While it was and is sad, it is their history and important to know. Too often today we are tearing down things that have to do with history I that is crazy. We need to be able to listen to each other, hear what each other is saying, and to understand and learn.

Kip talked about their basketry and bead work which is attributed to the river as well. Because food was so available, tribal members didn't have to worry 24 hours a day where the next meal was going to come from, they had time to create baskets, beadwork, stonework, and arrowheads. They became proficient in their art and created artistry that is considered renowned throughout the world. Nchi Wana allowed it.

With 5 minutes to go, there was time for a few questions and a standing ovation for Kip. It was an amazing program that ended with the realization of how blessed we were to have him as our guest and hear his words and wisdom.