



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2025

*Unite For
Good*

ROTARY FAMILY PICNIC COWICHE CREEK BREWERY 5:00pm to 7:00pm



With expansive views of the Cowiche area and handcrafted food and beer loaded with Yakima Valley hops, Cowiche Creek Brewery will be the location of this year's Rotary Family Picnic. Rotarians and guests will be welcomed to their scenic grounds for an evening of relaxed fellowship and fun.

The centerpiece will be a build-your-own taco bar with all the fixings. Each attendee will receive a complimentary drink ticket, good for one of their signature brews, cider, or soda. Live music will set the tone with LTD band featuring our own Doug Rich. Corn hole boards will be available; bring along soccer balls, footballs and frisbees for the kids too.

Come ready to enjoy good food, great company, and Rotary fellowship. If you have not already given your RSVP, please contact the Rotary office by text, email, or phone so we can make sure there will be enough food for everyone.



FUTURE PROGRAMS

September 25th – Christan Conners, The Story of “Houdini Was” & Its Ripple Effect
October 2nd – Bryan Hoodle, Coaching & Assisting Disabled Athletics & Injured Vets
October 9th – Jackie Cruz, Celebration of National Hispanic Heritage Month
October 16th – Foti Panagakos, PNWU Dental School & Tour

SUNFAIR PARADE & ROTARY

Save the date of Saturday, September 20th; gather your walking buddies; and get your shoes ready to represent Rotary in the Sunfair Parade. Rotarians from all three clubs along with their families will be walking the parade route handing out books to the kids and promoting Operation Harvest.

If you would like to join in the fun, contact the Rotary office today. Meeting time and location will be forthcoming.



ROTARY ROASTERS



Thursday, September 25th at 7am
Catalyst Coffee (located inside
Single Hill Brewery)
Start your day off the Rotary way.

ROTARY OPERATION HARVEST



Rotary Operation Harvest is set for Saturday, October 11th. This one-day, community-wide food drive benefits nine local food banks and requires hundreds of volunteers from all three Yakima Rotary clubs to make it happen. Opportunities for service include tasks both before and day of:

1. Drop off bags on a pre-assigned route BEFORE the event between October 3rd and October 9th.
2. Collect food from a pre-assigned route on the day of the event on Saturday, October 11th between 10am and 1pm (most take 2 hours to complete).
3. Work at the food collection site between 11:45am and 2pm at the Rotary Marketplace on Saturday, October 11th, unloading food, sorting, and/or serving as a driver collecting food from a route that may have been missed.
4. Make a financial contribution.
5. Staple flyers to Operation Harvest bags to be completed before the event.

Sign-ups are underway! See the QR code. The goal is 100% participation!



REVIEW

This week's meeting landed on 9/11 with our music, inspiration, sergeant-at-arm, and program all dedicated to remembering that day. Joe Biondi's music, through his choice of "Where Were You" by Alan Jackson shared watching the planes crash into the World Trade Center towers and the innocent reaction of his 6-year-old daughter, knowing that our world had forever changed. Margaret Filkins shared an inspirational message of bravery and facing fears. Mike Hummel's sergeant-at-arms raised over \$300 for Rotary Charities. He talked about 9/11; where he was as a college freshman; calling the people he loves; watching the images over and over on the tv; witnessing the unification of Americans days after with no regard to politics or party affiliation; and that while we don't all look alike, don't believe the same things, and don't all come from the same backgrounds – we are all Americans.

President Sheri had the honor of introducing Retired Lt. Col. Ryan Yantis as our program speaker. A survivor of the 9/11 Pentagon Attack decorated for his actions, he shared his story and personal account of that fateful day. He was born and raised in California, moved to Illinois after his military career, and soon left for Wisconsin where he still resides today. He started college in Missouri in 1979, entering as the fastest high school swimmer in the nation in two separate events. The U.S. did not go to the Olympics in 1980 because the Russians went into Afghanistan. He ended up taking a ROTC map reading class and gave up swimming after being offered a scholarship. It was the start of his career in the Army. In 2001, he was an Army major working at the Pentagon located along the Potomac River. A funny five-sided building, it has the footprint the size of 3 Mall of Americas; has 17.5 miles of corridors, 20,000 doors, 6 plus million square feet of office space, with over 23,000 people working there.

On the morning of September 11th, he was 14 months into a 3-year assignment. As a spokesman for the news media, it was a normal, routine, boring day that began with a long morning meeting with Media Relations. At 8:46 the first plane hit the World Trade Center. They knew what was happening because they had tv monitors on their desks. The initial report was that it was an accident. He began calling people he knew in New York to check on them. When the second one hit at 9:03, they knew it was something different. One of his staff was 9 months pregnant; he told her to go home. She didn't want to go. Another was a young intern; she didn't want to go either. At 9:30, he and Lt. Col. Huntley were set to attend a DOMS to talk about and plan what would be next if New York needed their help. They set off towards corridor 4 but turned back after Huntley did not have directions. At 9:37 the alarms went off. Corridor 4 was hit, if they hadn't turned back, they would have been killed.

The day became hectic. He cleared his office and evacuated his people. He called home to say he was safe. He went outside, saw the impact site and people both leaving the building and people running into the building. There were a lot of heroic people taking care of each other; civilians driving by stopped to help. Outside the

portion of the building facing the river, rows of stretchers were set up. He saw two people walking out with an injured person on an improvised stretcher. He grabbed a stretcher and ran to help and continued running back in and out of the building to bring others out. He heard a jet coming in low and fast – it was an F-16, the first to arrive. It did not carry ammunition or bombs. The pilots up in the air were left to discuss what would happen if they needed to shoot an airliner down. The fire at the Pentagon was burning so hot, they couldn't go back in for additional search and rescue. The smoke was heavy and nasty due to the jet fuel. In the moment, he didn't know what was going on in the outside world. As a spokesman, he was called back into his office space to complete his duties. The aftermath of the Attack was the death of 59 people aboard American Flight 77, 125 who died in the Pentagon, 106 seriously injured and hospitalized and hundreds of others injured. The Pentagon never stopped working or closed. It was an amazing presentation. His story and many others are part of a book available on Amazon called 9/11 Survivor's Stories, Midwest Memories.

What else happened? President Sheri thanked Brent Elkins and Shawna Groot for serving as our greeters; welcomed our guests; reminded us that the Rotary picnic is next week; shared the date of the first Rotary Roasters gathering on September 25th; and announced the first deadline for grant applications is October 1st. Eric Silvers shared that Seahawk posters were available for the taking. Michael Moen promoted Rotary Operation Harvest; and Sy Ruiz introduced our newest member, Mitchell Acosta. Mitchell was born in Tacoma and raised in Yakima. He learned the value of hard work early, taking on jobs from delivering papers to picking fruit. Today he is a branch manager for Key Bank on Yakima Avenue with over 14 years of experience. He is also the treasurer for the Washington State Microenterprise Association. His dad duties include hosting tea parties and giving lawn mower rides. A lover of the outdoors, he enjoys snowboarding and hiking. We are so happy to have him as part of Rotary! Also congratulations to Lorna Huck for being part of the Rotary office for 15 years - she is the BEST!



President Sheri Bissell with speaker Ryan Yantis