



THURSDAY, JUNE 5, 2025 YAKIMA CONVENTION & EVENT CENTER

*The Magic
Of Rotary*

HANNAH WILSON YAKIMA FREE CLINIC



Hannah Wilson, PA-C is the Executive Director and a Founding Member of Yakima Free Clinic. Originally from Alabama, she received her Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies from the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB).

Hannah has been a Physician Assistant for 10 years and spent her professional career caring for the underserved communities of Yakima Valley. She has run medical clinics at fruit processing facilities locally providing occupational health, urgent care and primary care; and has more than 7 years of experience at the YUGM clinic where she also led the team as the Clinic Director for 3 years. In addition to running the clinic and serving as the primary care provider, she also developed a street medicine program and a respite care program.

Hannah has served as a board member of the Washington Healthcare Access Alliance and currently serves as Treasurer for Central Washington Mountain Rescue where she was awarded volunteer of the year. When not caring for the medically underserved of our valley or rescuing folks in the mountains, you can find her volunteering for our local Repair Cafe and hiking with her husband, dogs, and friends.

FOR THURSDAY'S MEETING

Greeters – Jan Luring, Greg Luring
 Inspiration – Jan Luring
 Sergeant-at-Arms – Kellie Connaughton
 Program – Sara Holtzinger
 Attendance – Matt Crow

FUTURE PROGRAMS

June 12th – New Member Meeting
 June 19th – Kjersten Braaten, Tree Top
 June 26th – President Jim DeGrasse Recognition
 July 3rd – No Meeting, Happy 4th of July

ROTARY BOOK CLUB – DON'T MISS THIS



Mark your calendars for Wednesday, July 2nd for the next Rotary Book Club discussion featuring the book, *The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell* by Robert Dugoni. Born with ocular albinism, young Sam Hill grows up facing relentless challenges – bullying, exclusion, and the weight of being different. Through his mother's unwavering support and faith, Sam learns that what sets him apart may be his greatest strength.

Making it special this time is that the author Robert Dugoni will be joining the group by ZOOM! Robert and Bob Gerst will be the only people allowed on Zoom. The rest of us will have to attend in person. The location and time will be the Yakima Community Foundation Office at 316 E. Yakima Avenue, Ste 201, from 5pm to 6:30pm. Happy Reading!

PROPOSED NEW MEMBER

Unless written objection is received by the Board of Directors by Friday, June 6, 2025, the following candidate will be elected to membership:

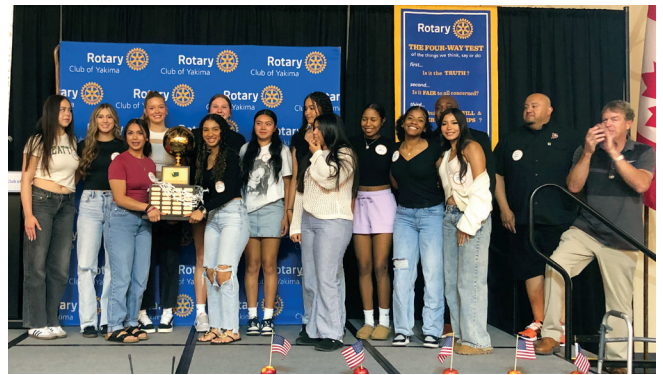
Kaitlin Bealer

Customer Service Manager

Kwik Lok

Classification: Manufacturing, Customer Relations

Proposed by: Erin Black



*Davis Girls 4A State Championship
Basketball Team*

REVIEW

Week after week, we continue to have great programs. This week was no exception with over 100 guests joining us to hear Ret. General Jim Mattis speak. Before he spoke, there was Rotary business to take care of. Clark Permann shared an inspirational message recognizing Memorial Day and honoring those that paid the ultimate price. President Jim's member recognitions included Jane Davis' retirement and the one-year anniversaries of Rebecca Thornton, Rodrigo Renteria-Valenica, and Zeb Ruff. Trevor Greene also honored the Davis Girls 4A State Basketball Championship Team who were in attendance as our guests. With trophy in hand, they receive a standing ovation for their remarkable season.

Jennifer Bliesner introduced our Cole Held as our newest member. Cole was born and raised in Louisiana and attended LSU where he earned a degree in marketing. He began his career at a funeral home, starting in sales and working his way up to operations manager. After three years, he had the opportunity to begin flipping houses. Starting his own company, he remodeled a house while living in it and subsequently build a new home from the ground up. When the housing market cooled down, he returned to the funeral home business, this time managing 10 facilities across the southern region. Knowing he was interested in new challenges, the owner of the funeral home business proposed a new opportunity to Cole to purchase and manage a cemetery in Yakima, Washington. At 27 years old, he packed up his car, drove west, and became the owner of West Hills Cemetery. He met Jennifer when looking for an insurance agency; she introduced him to Rotary. Since moving he's already snowboarded at White Pass, golfed at Apple Tree and YCC, toured Gilbert Orchard's warehouse, and attended the Symphony. We are so happy to have him as part of Rotary! With no sergeant-at-arms, Don Baumbach wrapped up Rotary business with one more invitation to participate in a project to spread woodchips at the Chesterley and MLK Jr. playgrounds before Rotary on Thursday morning, June 5th.

Brad Hansen proudly introduced General Jim Mattis as our featured speaker. It was an exceptional program with General Mattis weaving in Rotary, his love of Eastern Washington, stories of his life and service, dangers facing us today, and how we can help strengthen our country today.

He loves being around Rotary; Rotary solves problems locally, globally, and practices their motto of Service Above Self (something Washington, D.C. could use). He is Eastern Washington born and raised. He was born in Pullman, grew up in Richland, picked fruit in the Yakima Valley, and attended college at CWU. He took the values he learned here all around the world. He was in college when the draft was still going on; you were going whether you wanted to or not. Instead of the draft, he chose to join the Marine infantry. The first place in our nation's history where we had an official election voting as equals was on the Lewis & Clark Expedition to cross the mouth of the Columbia River to spend the winter – there was a white man, black man, woman, and Native American. It took place in the Pacific Northwest.

He had always seen his path as a teacher and a coach. He stayed in the Marines because he fell in love with the sailors and marines he served with. He became a player and a coach teaching other young men and women to be the best versions of themselves. As a 21-year-old second lieutenant he could command his 40 sailors and Marines in about 10 minutes a day (what would be in backpacks, who is going to be point, where they would dig in for the night); he spent the rest of the time coaching. 30 years later still carrying his Eastern Washington values he was in command of 200,000 U.S. military

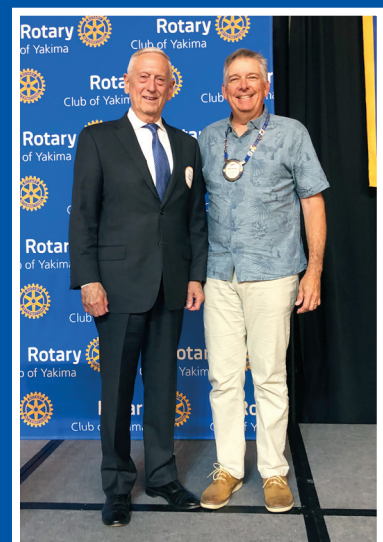
personnel and 50,000 allied forces doing the same thing except with admirals and generals.

He learned a lot about our country from foreigners; sometimes they can see America more clearly than we can. As a NATO Supreme Allied Commander meeting with the Australian ambassador to talk about needing more troops in Afghanistan, he told Mattis the American made the most single most self-sacrificial pledge in world history after WWII – NATO. America could have told Europe, we're through with it, twice in 30 years you've dragged us into your stupid wars. Instead, we pledged to support democracy in Europe through NATO.

Today we are facing a nexus of autocrats: China, Russia who has been murdering Ukrainians for 3 years, Iran, and North Korea. They are working together against us and the belief that democracies in general and U.S. in particular are irreversible decline. We can't stop hating each other and we enjoy it – they are standing back and clapping. Last July, Congress had a bipartisan to study our national strategy. What they found was that the U.S. military lacked both the capability and capacity to deter or prevail right now given the capacities we have. The U.S. public is largely unaware of the danger we face or the cost to fix it. One example of working together happened in January, a year and ½ ago. Russians were firing using Russian and North Korea missiles loaded with Chinese technology and help from Iranian drones to take out the energy grid in Ukraine in the middle of winter. The solution to their nexus is finding a way back to the fundamentals, unity at home, and our allies.

There were questions about the Afghanistan withdrawal, Russia and Ukraine, and our allies. He shared as a teacher at Stanford there are college students who are not aware it takes House and Senate to pass a bill. He shared the value of a curriculum where all high school juniors were required to pass the same test that immigrants pass to become a citizen. The sons and daughters of immigrant family serve at a higher rate in the U.S. military than those of non-immigrant families. He shared that we need to embrace other points of view. Even a broken clock is right twice a day. We can listen to each other and have a good argument, but once election season is we need to go into governing. He doesn't watch television; he doesn't want to see what passes for news – everything is framed about how to distrust or hate ½ of America.

A special thank you to Brad Hansen for inviting him to speak; it was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to hear a message of service, sacrifice, values, and unity. Along the way he shared a quote from Walter Lippman given at the 30th reunion of the Harvard Class of 1910. "For every right you cherish you have a duty which you must fulfill. For every hope you entertain, you have a task you must perform. For every good that you wish to preserve, you will have to sacrifice your comfort and your ease. There is nothing for nothing any longer."



President Jim & General Jim Mattis



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