



THURSDAY, MAY 22, 2025 YAKIMA CONVENTION & EVENT CENTER

*The Magic
Of Rotary*

YAKIMA ROTARY ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

For decades, Yakima Rotary has been transforming the future of students in our community through our scholarship programs. The funds we award are more than financial aid; it is an investment in leadership, innovation, and service to shape the next generation of community leaders and empowering them to achieve their dreams.

This year, the Academic Scholarship Committee evaluated and scored 64 applications from students attending Davis, East Valley, Eisenhower, La Salle, Naches Valley, and West Valley High schools along with 2 homeschooled students. Each application was scored on academic performance, school and community leadership, a personal essay, two letters of recommendation, and financial need. Thirty-three students were chosen to go through an interview. From that group the following nineteen were chosen to receive the 2025 Yakima Rotary Academic Scholarship:

Davis High School

Alberto Barragan
 David Barron
 Kemberlin Burgos
 Rita Guerrero Alcala
 Elizabeth Lopez Mora
 Anai Serrano Mojica
 Rubi Tolentino-Mejia
 Peter Whitney

Eisenhower High School

Isabel Amaya
 Alexandra Campos Valdovinos
 Luanna Huang

La Salle High School

Hailey Lopez
 Hallie Tunstall
 Johan Valladares

Naches Valley High School

Juliette Marney

Selah High School

Roberto Jimenez
 Lauren Rice
 Caleb Williams

West Valley High School

Jazlin Betancourt

Each of the students will be joining us this week along with their family and friends. They will be sharing where they plan to attend college, their course of study, something they like about themselves, and something that they treasure about Yakima. Please join the celebration.

PROPOSED NEW MEMBERS

Unless written objection is received by the Board of Directors by Friday, May 23, 2025, the following candidates will be elected to membership:

Jake Church

Lieutenant
 Yakima County Sheriff's Office
**Classification: Law Enforcement,
 County**
 Proposed by: Sara Watkins
 Endorsed by: Yvette Inzunza

Howard Head

CFO
 Kwik Lok Corporation
**Classification: Manufacturing,
 Finance**
 Proposed by: Anthony Peterson
 Endorsed by: Drew Harris

Toni Benetti Flabetich

Owner/Chef
 Catering Creations by Toni
**Classification: Food & Beverage,
 Catering**
 Proposed by: Kathy Miller Parrish
 Endorsed by: Tressa Mercy

FOR THURSDAY'S MEETING

Greeters – Jeff Swan, Bob Price

Inspiration – Jan Luring

Program – Quinn Dalan

Attendance – Rich Austin

FUTURE PROGRAMS

May 29th – Retired General Jim Mattis

June 5th – Hannah Wilson, Yakima Free Clinic

June 12th – New Member Meeting

June 19th – Khersten Brattan, Tree Top

ROTARY FIRST CITIZEN AWARD



Jim Berg had the honor of presenting Carter Fjeld with this year's Rotary First Citizen Award. Described as the equivalent of a lifetime achievement award, Carter was the perfect selection for recognition. He is a quiet star, unassuming, respectful, dignified, and not boastful. Professionally he has practiced law for 45 years having served as president of the Yakima County Bar Association and the recipient of numerous awards for his volunteer legal services. His community involvement has included serving on the boards of the Yakima Consumer Credit Counseling Services and Yakima Specialties and volunteering as a citizenship instructor at La Casa Hogar.

His Rotary service is remarkable. A member since 1994, he served on the Board from 2004-07, is a multiple Paul Harris Fellow, and a Rotary Trust Fellow. He has chaired Rotary Information, Bridge, and Literacy. His biggest involvement has been with the Rotary Youth Exchange Program, both within our club and at the district level including as chair of the district committee. He and his wife Linda have been married for 54 years and have 3 daughters. They have hosted 10 exchange students and traveled to two club projects in Morelia, Mexico. We are so grateful to have him as a part of our club and for his legacy of service.

REVIEW

We were back at the Convention Center this week. Greeters were Josh Shockley and Jolene Seda. Celisa Hopkins provided a moving inspirational message that tied in today's topic with the work being done at Cowiche Conservancy that reminded us we are not separate from the land; we are of the land and we have a responsibility to take care of it for the future. Steven Gustafson raised money for Rotary Charities with sergeant-at-arms. President Jim welcomed our guests and recognized Rotarians Jeff Schaap who was recently appointed to the Board of Directors for the Washington State Association of Municipal Attorneys; Vicki Baker as the recipient of the Legendary Leadership in Business Award and Betty Jo Murray who was the recipient of the Legendary Community Service Award by the Chamber of Commerce. Monday, July 21st marks the date for the Yakima Rotary Trust Mollie Davis Golf Tournament; the All-Rotary Celebration will take place the following day at 5:30pm at the Downtown Marketplace. The Mollie Davis Scholarship Awards ceremony will be held on Monday, June 16th at 5pm at the YVC Kaminski Conference Center. This year fifty-eight recipients will receive a total of \$1.25 million.

Brad Hansen introduced Dana Cowley Gribble, Communications Specialist with Hanford Mission Integration Solutions who presented a fascinating overview of the Hanford site. What is Hanford? Spanning 600 square miles, Hanford was one of the key locations of the Manhattan Project during World War II. From 1944-1989 the site produced plutonium. It was chosen for its vast size, remoteness, proximity to the Columbia River, and minimal light pollution – making it virtually undetectable to enemy aircraft at night. In total, enough plutonium was produced to make 50,000 nuclear weapons. Today, it is no longer a site of nuclear production. Since the 1990s, it has been the largest nuclear-cleanup project in the country. The work continues with clean up along the river and efforts to shrink the Central Plateau where much of the nuclear waste is stored. During WWII, Hanford produced plutonium; Oak Ridge enriched uranium, and Los Alamos was responsible for the assembly of the atomic bombs.

Hanford operates under 6 contractors, all working for the Department of Energy with a total workforce of approximately 15,000 employees. H2C is responsible for managing waste from 144 underground tanks containing 56 million gallons of chemical, radioactive and nuclear waste. They have received the largest environmental cleanup contract in U.S. history - \$45 billion. Bechtel's vitrification plant will convert some of the liquid and mixed waste into glass, a process that stabilizes the material for safer storage. Hanford employs 80 medical professional specialists to respond in the event of exposure or contamination. The department Dana works for

manages everything from "road and commodes". The Central Plateau Cleanup Company focuses on reducing the size and risk of the Central Plateau.

Construction at Hanford began in the 1940s with the development of nine nuclear reactors (including the historic B Reactor), as well as underground storage tanks, and plutonium production facilities. At its peak during WWII, the site employed 50,000 people focused on the development of the world's first atomic weapon. There was not much thought about cleanup or long-term safety. A lot of contamination was poured into the ground and released into the air. Today, the mission centers on the safe and effective treatment of tank waste and environmental remediation to protect the river, water, and agricultural land. However, with an aging workforce and many specialists retiring or removing on, attracting nuclear specialist remains a challenge.

The pump-and-treat projects have been major successes. To date, 682 tons of contaminants have been removed from groundwater, and 36.1 billion gallons of groundwater have been treated. 832 thousand gallons of tank waste are now prepared for immobilization in glass logs through the vitrification process. Once the glass logs are created and stored in tanks, the issue remains as to where to put them. The logs will need to be contained deep underground in a geologically stable site for long-term storage.

The Tank-Side Cesium Removal System uses ionized towers to extract Cesium from liquid waste. The success has been so significant that it may enable portions of the treated waste to meet requirements for off-site shipment. Potentially, 40 million of the 56 million gallons of waste could be trucked to Clive, Utah and Andrews, Texas. Instead of shipping liquid waste, the thinking is to mix it with dry materials to solidify it, allowing it to be safely buried in large repositories.

Hanford Mission Integration Solutions Training Facility provides essential training for firefighters, EMTs, medical contractors, road crews, and people who work on utilities. The police department has specially trained dogs capable of detecting radioactive material. Given the hazardous nature of the site, fire prevention and response are critical. Fires could have disastrous consequences. Funding levels increased to \$3.04 billion in 2024, much of it for operations. To date, \$65.8 billion has been spent with significant progress made in the cleanup efforts. It was a fascinating look at Hanford and the ongoing efforts to address complex environmental challenges and protect and restore the landscape for future generations.



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