



The Serving Tray

Rotary Club of Kirksville -- Charter 371 -- District 6040

www.kvrotary.org



September 13, 2023- Volume #74

TWO NEW MEMBERS PROPOSED: President Melissa said they are Osariemen Okhuaihesuyi and organizational member Cleaver Dermatology (first announcement). Five individuals are included in the Cleaver group: Lloyd, Jonathan and David Cleaver, Marcy Palermo and Baydon Hilton.

HIGHWAY CLEANUP 9/20/23: Ron Brand said 3-4 people are needed. Meet at Westlake's at 5:15 pm. President Melissa will ask ATSU Rotaractors to help.



THOUSAND HILLS STATE PARK SUPERINTENDENT RYAN PERSINGER

In Ramey Weichelt's introduction we learned that Ryan Persinger, who holds a Wildlife Conservation degree from Missouri Western State University, has been with the State Park system for 13 years and park superintendent here since 2018.

Ryan said the Thousand Hills State Park, which opened in 1952, covers over 3,000 acres, with Forest Lake at just under 600 acres. They have around 14 miles of trails. The State Park, operated by a full time staff of six, had just under 550,000 visitors in 2022. Recent accomplishments include installing a deck at the dining lodge in 2018, seawall concrete docks in 2019, a new park office in 2021 (after earlier office destroyed in a 2016 fire); a paved trail between

Campgrounds #1 and #2 in 2022; and, last winter and spring the exhaust system at the dining lodge was redone. Future plans include an auto gate will be installed at the entrance (10 pm to 6 am) with codes supplied for after-hours entrance. (Vandalism has been a problem.) Wastewater stations will be updated this winter and a four-mile dirt trail between Campground #1 to the end of Michigan Street will be opened in 2024. One year from now the beach change house will be redone making ADA accessible. **A big change:** The Kolb family did not bid on a new 10-year concessions contract. Starting in 2024, a hospitality management company called ExplorUS will add our state park concessions to its several other concessions. Ryan said, in promoting the Dark Skys program, over 20 more light fixtures will be replaced with amber fixtures. More Dark Skys programs with TSU and the Adair Co Public Library will be scheduled. **Upcoming Events:** September 23, Archeology Day at the petroglyphs, and on September 30, the FLATS half marathon will be held. The speaker is pictured above with Rotarian Ramey Weichelt.

50-50 Drawing: Jeff Romine did not pull the ace of spades; pot now up to \$451.

Happy Bucks: \$26

Guests:

Phillip Lechenauer (Truman Exchange Student and Rotaractor From Austria) **Deadra Hughes** (guest of Ernie Hughes); **Elsie Gaber** (1000 Hills club); **Doug McBride** (guest of Elizabeth Gregory); **Osariemen Okhuaihesuyi** (proposed member); **Ryan Persinger** (speaker)

Upcoming Programs:

Sept. 20: Ernie Hughes/Fulbright Scholarship Trip to Uganda
Sept. 27: Mark Shahan/Courthouse Renovation
Oct. 4: Stephanie Mills/Fairy Godmother Project
Oct. 11: Tyana Lange and Megan Gregory/Baloney Fest
Oct. 18: LaRoyce Allemang/Dracula
Oct. 25: Amanda Selby/United Way 2024 Campaign
Nov. 1: Robert Webb/Kirksville Schools Update