

Nxumalo and Malungane, who both grew up near the unit's headquarters but only got to know each other since they became Mambas, are checking, as they do every day of their 21-day shift, for breaches in the fence. Mostly this entails collecting rocks to shore up the places where animals such as warthogs and leopards have tried to burrow their way under, but periodically they come across a spot where humans have cut the fence to hunt animals for bushmeat or, worse, poach rhinos for their horns.

In 2013, when the first Mambas began patrolling the reserve, they quickly discovered that rhino poaching was only part of the problem. The park was also losing hundreds of animals of all species to snares every year. "It was embarrassing," recalls Craig Spencer, 48, as he sits by a bushveld braai (barbecue) and talks over the calls of a nearby hyena. A maverick South African conservationist, he was head warden of Balule, a private animal preserve. "I should have known what was happening under my nose. It took the Mambas to show me what was going on."

White rhinos have been hunted almost to extinction in Africa. Of the continent's 18,000 remaining white rhinos, nearly 90 percent are in South Africa, the species' last best hope. Kruger is home to by far the biggest white rhino population, as well as about 300 of the world's 5,600 remaining black rhinos.

The rhinoceros horn is prized in some countries, used as a traditional medicine and a status symbol. According to the Wildlife Justice Commission, a horn fetches an average of \$4,000 per pound in Africa, and as much as \$8,000 per pound in Asia; given that a set of white rhino horns typically weighs 11 pounds, it's worth between \$44,000 and \$88,000. South Africa's per capita income is about \$5,000 per year and its pre-COVID-19 unemployment rate was about 29 percent. Therefore, a rhino, sadly, is a tempting target. In 2017, poachers killed more than 500 rhinos in Greater Kruger National Park, including 17 in Balule.

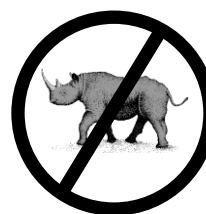
*(For more of this article please go to: [Rotary.org](https://www.rotary.org) then go to News & Features)*

# THE EARLY RISER

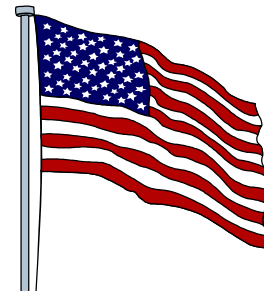
EVERY ROTARIAN  
US \$100  
EVERY YEAR



8 April, 2022  
Volume 39, Number 32



DON'T BE A R.I.N.O.  
(Rotarian In Name Only!)



## ROTARY PRAYER

Oh Lord, and giver of all good, we  
thank Thee for our daily food.

May Rotary friends and Rotary  
ways, help to serve Thee all of our  
days.

## THE ROTARY CLUB OF WICHITA FALLS NORTH



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES

### 2021-22 R.I. Officers ~ D5790

President of Rotary International: Shekhar Mehta

District Governor: Kayla Christianson

OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS – 2021-22

President: Clint Wood ~ President Elect: Ajay Kumar

Secretary: Tom Sheriff ~ Treasurer: Ann Lucas

Executive Secretary: Jeani Secord ~ Sgt. at Arms: Joe Clement

Directors: Clint Wood – Phil Waggoner ~ Gary Southard ~ Mike Crocker

Tom Cale ~Tom Sheriff & Troy Secord (PDG Ex-Officios)

Website: [www.wichitafallsnorthrotaryclub.org](https://www.wichitafallsnorthrotaryclub.org)

## ***FUTURE PROGRAM ASSIGNMENTS***

April 8 ----- Larry Gunnell  
April 13 ----- Blood Drive SAFB Theater 1:00 PM – 6:00 PM  
April 15 ----- Ajay Kumar  
April 15 ----- Club Social at the Fiesta Mariachi at 6:00 PM  
April 22 ----- Ann Lucas  
April 29 ----- Bill Neale  
May 6 ----- Rob Noble  
May 13 ----- Jeani Secord  
May 20 ----- Troy Secord  
May 27 ----- Tom Sheriff  
June 3 ----- Gary Southard  
June 10 ----- Phil Waggoner  
June 17 ----- Tom Cale  
June 24 ----- Joe Clement

---

### **NEWS FROM OUR LAST CLUB MEETING AT JIMMY'S EGG**

The invocation was led by President Clint and the Pledges were led by Phil.

Gary and Clint donated to the hungry brag bucket.

A wedding anniversary was announced for Troy and Jeani Secord. Congratulations!

It was announced that on April 21<sup>st</sup>, Ronnie Jackson will be attending the Downtown Rotary Club and everyone is invited to attend. I would recommend to contact the Downtown Club in advance for a reservation.

Mike presented Liz Martin from River Bend Nature Center as our program. Liz told us about things happening at RBNC.

Rotary District 5790 is having this year's District Assembly, live and in living color this year, at the FUMC in Graham, Texas on April 30th. Please try to attend. It is always a good time.

On April 7<sup>th</sup> the club will tour the facilities at the 364th that we haven't toured yet. The last tour was a good time. This should be also. Please try to attend.

Our club made a \$1,000.00 donation to River Bend Nature Center. In the picture below, during the donation are: Clint, Liz and Mike. Is there and doubt as to whom is the best looking? I hope not!



---

### ***NEWS FROM ROTARY INTERNATIONAL:***

#### **WHITE RHINOS AND BLACK MAMBAS**

#### **Can an all-female anti-poaching unit stop wildlife crime in an African game preserve — without guns?**

Dressed in a baggy green camouflage uniform and black work boots, long ponytail swinging against her back, Tsakane Nxumalo, 26, and her partner Naledi Malungane, 21, stride alongside an elephant-proof electric fence that is 7 feet high and nearly 100 miles long. The potent, honey-like odor of purple-pod cluster-leaf trees hangs heavy in the humid summer air, while overhead a yellow-billed hornbill swoops to perch on the skeleton of a dead leadwood tree. Nxumalo and Malungane are members of the Black Mambas Anti-Poaching Unit. Named after a snake that is native to the region and long, fast, and highly venomous, the Mambas strive to protect the animals of the Balule Nature Reserve within Greater Kruger National Park, a South African wilderness that is about the size of Israel.