

The Orange Peel

2024-2025 | President Catrina Womack | "Together We Thrive"

Next Meeting Friday, Sep 27, 2024

Speaker - Dan Walters -
Cal Choice

Greeters - Deanna
Maddock, Lorie Rheams

Invocation - Bert Smith

Vocation - Sean Palmer

Prospector - Audrey
Smith Wiberg

The Four-Way Test

Is it the TRUTH?

Is it FAIR to All
Concerned?

Will it build GOOD
WILL and BETTER
FRIENDSHIPS?

Will it be BENEFICIAL
to all concerned?

Pumpkin Growing Extraordinaire



Brad Squires, the Rotary Club’s speaker chairperson introduced the speaker, **Sankalp Immadisetty**, who is a 15-year old pumpkin grower and Granite Bay high school student. Brad met him in 2022 at the Pumpkin Palazzo when Sankalp had a 472 pound pumpkin for sale, for \$472. Brad and Sankalp negotiated back and forth and although Brad’s starting point was \$250, he ended up paying \$400!

Sankalp talked about the pumpkin he grew in 2023 which weighed-in at a staggering 1334 pounds!! He

**Recap of the Meeting
Sept 13, 2024**

Rotary Guests

Sankalp Immadisetty - pumpkin grower

Patrick Smith - Catrina's dog trainer.

Shannon Smith - Patrick's wife and 5th granddaughter

Ernie Womack - the first gentleman

District 5180 Governor

Steve Turner

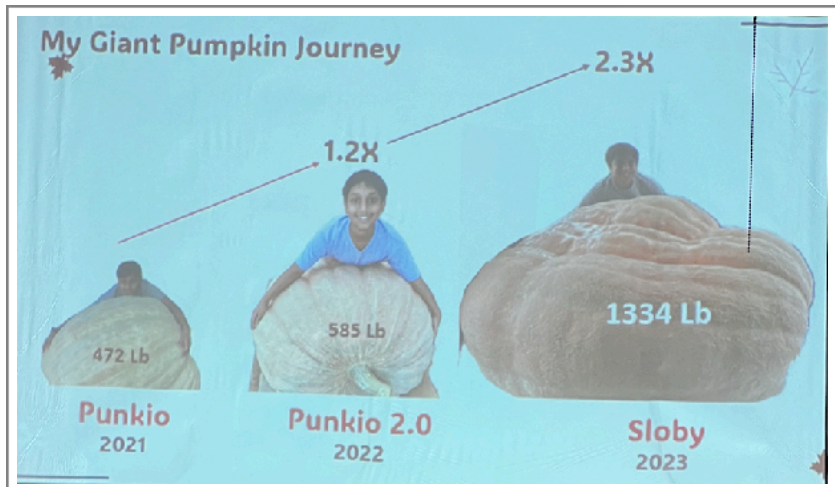
2024-2025

The 2024-2025 Rotary International presidential theme is **"The Magic of Rotary"**

grew the largest pumpkin of anyone under the age of 18 and he named the pumpkin Sloby.

The work began with a soil test and Sankalp explained the importance of having balanced nutrients and having the right PH. Once he had received the soil test, he began amending the soil.

The giant pumpkin seeds were planted on April 10. The special seeds are expensive but you don't need a lot of them. To protect the seedlings from the cold, he grew them in his parent's hot water closet with a grow light and a heating pad.



On April 22 he selected the starts, hand tilled the planting area and put up a hoop house using PVC pipe and white plastic sheeting which kept the soil and plants warm which enable faster growth. He also used a space heater for warming in the night which kept the hoop house at 70 degrees vs the 42 degrees outside.

On May 1 there was a growth explosion. This was helped by the constant adding of nutrients to the soil. Starting on May 5, Sankalp started removing the plastic sheeting during the day.

On May 15 , the plants were taken out of the hoop house. There were 2 plants and one safety plant remaining. Sankalp picked the one he wanted to concentrate all his effort on and planted it in the growing area. One plant needs 1500 sure feet and Sankalp had 40’ x 80’ area prepared.

On May 31 there was heavy growth. He buried the multiple vines to increase water and nutrient absorption and lower the direct heat on the pumpkin.

On June 7 the flowers opened up and were pollinated.

The goal was to keep the leaves as happy as possible. On June 16 shade cloth was installed to keep them cooler. As the daytime temperatures rose towards 100 degrees, misters were installed to further cool the leaves off.



On June 19 small pumpkins were emerging. Drip tubing was used for irrigation and for fertilizer injection. Sankalp culled the pumpkins from the vines so that all of the plant’s effort went toward just one pumpkin. He said that the single pumpkin is raise inorganically due to the pesticides and chemical fertilizers he employed.

July 4 vines have taken over entire area and the plant had to be fertilized every day. On August 8, Sankalp was interviewed by a local news team who got word about the giant pumpkin. At this point, the pumpkin was growing 30 to 50 pounds a day! The pumpkin was grown on a special paper mat which allowed the pumpkin to be moved away from the vines. If he didn't move the pumpkin daily, it could have grown over the vines and cut off its nutrients and water, thereby killing itself!

Sept 2 - When it was time to weigh the pumpkin, a strap was put around the pumpkin and a tractor was used to lift it onto a specially built pallet on the back of a flat bed truck. At the weighing, Sankalp was proud to see that his pumpkin weighed 1334 pounds!!! What a great achievement!

In 2023, the heaviest pumpkin weighed 2,256 pounds in Georgia. This didn't discourage Sankalp. He is growing another pumpkin this year! Sankalp sold the pumpkin to a farmer in Sunnyvale who used it for a decoration and a tourist attraction to his farm stand.



Sankalp joined a gardening club five years ago and he started making videos about gardening. His youtube channel is named "Green Thumb Gardening". Two years

ago he posted a video about growing his 472 pound giant pumpkin. Check it out. Sankalp passed around a bag of pumpkin seeds if anyone wanted to try growing a giant pumpkin.

President Catrina thanked Sankalp for speaking to the club about his pumpkin growing. Catrina loves to garden and she met Sanfalp at the gardening club. She presented Sankalp with a custom wooden pen made by Rotarian Bob Kurtz.

Announcements

President Cartrina Womack read off the upcoming events to put on your calendar:

Sept 28 - Bow Wow Days - 9am - 1pm at the Orangevale Community Park

Sept 28 - A mini Service Day at the Orangevale-Fair Oaks Food Bank - morning

Sept 28 - Lobster Feed - 5;30pm at Don Glover's home

Sept 29 - Food Bank and Farm Open House - 4pm to 7pm

Oct 12 - Community Food Drive @ Divine Savior

Don Russell said that today is National Pepperoni Day. What is the pizza that makes people sneeze? Pepper-only pizza! The Lobster Feed is on September 28; at Don Glover's house, 7701 Green Ridge Way. Don is looking for items for the event. He need chairs, Cooker pots, Burners and Propane tanks.

Mike McKibbin said that he attended the first Interact club meeting of the new school year at Casa Roble High School. There was a good turn out even though he didn't bring pizza to the meeting.

Deanna Maddock passed around a clip board so that everyone can sign up to help. Here are the committees and their lead:

- Table setup and breakdown and cleanup - All Rotarians on Deck to Help
- Food and Servers - Jeff Valtman
- Bar Service - Catrina Womack
- Sponsorships - Dennis Sarkisian
- Raffle - Diana Newman
- Wristbands - Lorie Rheams
- Cake Dash cake pickup - Don Russell
- Cake Dash Setup - Don Russell

- Cake Dash envelopes and money counters - Don Russell
- Silent Auction - Item Hustlers
- Silent Auction - Set up Auction Items
- Live Auction - Spotters and Checkout
- Check In Table - Michelle Famstead
- Hors-Devours - Catherine
- Check Out Table - Steve Blair
- Tickets and seating - Russ Rheams
- Tech/OneCause - Brad Squires and Dave Shepherd
- Event Chair - Deanna Maddock

Deanna has the form for Auction donations. The form has been revised so don't use last year's form. Deanna will be collecting the auction items.

Vocational Talk

Deanna Maddock gave her vocational talk. She was born in Las Vegas on October 10, 1976. When she was three months old, her family moved to Citrus Heights and then to Roseville where she lived nine years. She attended Oakmont High School.



Deanna has lived in Orangevale for 22 years. Her parents treated Deanna and her brother the same. She always was a tom-boy and played with her younger brother (3 years younger) and preferred to be outdoors. She wanted to sign up for little league and was told to go play with girls on a softball team. This gave her the drive to try anything and not to listen to the naysayers.

Deanna has never been married and has no children. She has never had the desire to do either. She works in the insurance industry. She loves the people of Orangevale. President Catrina thanked Deanna and mentioned that she is the incoming president.

Prospector

Audrey Smith-Wiberg is this month's prospector and she asked Autumn trivia questions. It was \$1 for the right answer and \$2 for the wrong answer.

What happens when a hay bale gets wet? It can spontaneously combust!

What was the original name for Fall? It was Harvest.

Who were the first people to use scarecrows? The Egyptians.

What is a male turkey called? No, it's not dinner, it's a gobbler.

Why are large spiders seen more often around Halloween? It's mating season.

What autumn month has a full moon called the "Corn Moon"? September.

More babies are born in October than September? True or False? False, it's September. Are pumpkins a fruit or a vegetable? They are a fruit.

Where did pumpkins originally come from? South America.

Which country started the tradition of carving pumpkins? Ireland. They originally carved turnips!

What essential vitamin is found in pumpkins? Vitamin A

Happy Fines

Rob Auernig is happy not to be with his in-laws.

Mike McKibbin is happy that **Bryan Daniel** turned a new wooden leg for his 100 year old antique stand that needed to be replaced.

The Orange Ball

There were 8 balls and \$70 for the person who can pull the orange ball from the basket. This week, **Bill Wagner** had the right ticket but he pulled out a white ball and not the orange golf ball.



The Thought for the Day

"The glory of gardening: hands in the dirt, head in the sun, heart with nature. To nurture a garden is to feed not just the body, but the soul." - Alfred Austin

Have Fun and Share Rotary!