

BIG SKY NEWS

Sandy Wong, Governor | District 5390 | Montana, USA



Connecting Rotarians throughout Montana

Rotary members from all around Montana gathered this summer for a District leadership training to educate club leaders about everything from grants to club administration. Board member Holli Rankin and Club President Martha Ripley from the Rotary Club of Missoula (pictured below) attended the training, held in Butte. Save the date for the Rotary District Conference scheduled for April 17-18 in Fairmont Hot Springs, MT.



Haley Olson

Rotary Club of Glendive awards college scholarship

Dawson Community College student Haley Olson was named winner of the annual Rotary Club of Glendive scholarship made through the Dawson College Foundation. Olson, daughter of Harlan and Jana Olson, received the \$750 scholarship for her leadership

traits. Throughout high school, she was active in a number of leadership roles in student council, FFA, and numerous athletic teams. At Dawson Community College, Olson plans to play basketball and pursue studies in allied health and nursing.

“I am grateful and honored to be selected for this award,” Olson said. “And appreciate the Rotary Club enabling me to achieve my dreams with this scholarship.”

The Rotary Club of Glendive was chartered in 2008. Under the leadership of Peggy Iba, club president in 2012, the club established a scholarship for a Dawson Community College student. During that time, Sandra Carroll was executive director of the Dawson College Foundation and Kyle Milne was board chair of the foundation. Since its inception, the scholarship has grown and become permanently endowed.

—Submitted by Peggy Iba with news from the Sidney Herald

Around Town

Changing of the Guard

Rotary Club of Missoula Past President Jim Hutcheson did the honors at the first meeting of the new 2019-20 Rotary year when he offered up his president's pin to incoming President Martha Ripley.



DGE visits Missoula Club

District Governor-Elect Sandy Carlson (r.) and her colleague Alex Harris (l.) both from the Red Cross, were in Missoula for a blood drive and took time to visit the Rotary Club of Missoula on July 17.



—Victoria Emmons, PE, Rotary Club of Missoula



RYLA students, pictured left to right: Brinson Wyche from Corvallis High School, Sidney DeLong from Hamilton High School, Brinya Child from Darby High School, and Halle Rhodes from Corvallis High School

Hamilton Rotary members get kudos from RYLA scholarship winners

Rotary Club of Hamilton members were bursting with pride when Ken Riemer, RYLA chair for the Rotary Club of Hamilton, introduced four students at the club's August 12 meeting who attended RYLA this summer. The club sponsored six RYLA students in all.

Brinson Wyche from Corvallis High School, Sidney DeLong from Hamilton High School, Brinya Child from Darby High School, and Halle Rhodes from Corvallis High School are four of the six RYLA students who attended the youth leadership camp this year.

The students shared what most impressed them about RYLA and thanked Rotary members for sponsoring them.

—Gordon Read, Rotary Club of Hamilton



From District Governor Sandy Wong

DG asks Montana clubs to connect with each other via a gift to pass along to another club



Greetings fellow Rotarians!

I hope you are practicing the 5th Tenet of the Four Way Test as we cruise into August – is it fun?!? Baseball games, barbecues and other outdoor gatherings are fabulous ways to have fun, build friendships and network within our own clubs.

I have already started visiting clubs throughout District 5390 and shared this request in advance with club presidents:

District Governor Visit 2019-2020 Rotary Connects the World!

In an effort to connect clubs in our District and remind us all that we are part of a larger entity with a good purpose in mind, each club is asked to present a gift for the District Governor to take to the next club visited.

Each club will raffle or auction off the gift from the previous club as a way to raise funds toward a charitable project of the club's choosing. This can take place at a future meeting after the DG's visit. Clubs may include a basket of items specific to their area, a theme basket, tickets to an event, or something else.

Suggested value of gift basket or item is \$100.

The item may be wrapped, so it is a surprise, or easily viewed.

Rotarians connect to Do Good in Our Communities, Our District and in the World.

It's been fun so far -- can't wait to see what your Club comes up with!

—Sandy Wong, Governor, District 5390, 2019-20

Townsend Interact volunteers in Guatemala

First international service project a big success in building cultural understanding

Ten high school students in Townsend, MT, practiced their Spanish language skills in

preparation for the trip of a lifetime to Guatemala this summer.

Inspired by the success of Corvallis and Big Sky Interact clubs'

international projects,

Townsend Interact Club

members also wanted to organize an international service project.

On June 15, their dream became a reality. Ten Townsend Interact students, the club's advisor, and four chaperones traveled to Guatemala for a nine-day service and cultural understanding trip. Upon arrival in the Central American country, club members volunteered at Maya Pedal, a non-profit Guatemalan organization that builds self-sustainable projects to improve the environment, health, productivity, and economy of rural families. The club worked with students from a local school to build bio-sand water filters for four families, built a display shelter for Maya Pedal's workshop, and teamed up with a young women's organization called Let Girls Lead to install trash receptacles in the community. The club members visited a local school to meet and share stories



Interact members with Guatemalans on Lake Atitlan.

with the students, played soccer in the evening with students from the school, and learned about the incredible work of Let Girls Lead being done locally and nationally in Guatemala.

Club members then shifted their focus to

learning about the

Guatemalan culture through home-stays with indigenous families in San Pedro de Laguna. Surrounded by volcanoes and situated on the shores of Lake Atitlan, this welcoming community was one of the highlights of the trip. Interact members divided into five smaller groups for a two-night stay in the homes of women from Mother Weavers Co-op. Interact students and chaperones were treated to traditional Mayan food, listened to the Mayan language spoken in the homes, and learned about the traditions and beliefs of the indigenous people of Guatemala.

Finally, the club was invited by the Rotary Club of Mazatenango to tour a Rotary International global grant water project, built in partnership with the Montana Rotary Coalition. The Coalition has worked together for several years to

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– GUATEMALA, from page 4

bring clean drinking water to the smaller villages surrounding Mazatenango, Guatemala. The Montana Rotary Coalition includes clubs in Big Fork, Columbia Falls, Evergreen, Kalispell, Kootenai Valley, Missoula, Polson, and Whitefish.

The club's Guatemalan adventure, Townsend Interact Club's first international service trip, was coordinated with help from the Rotary Club of Townsend, Maya Pedal, the Montana Rotary Coalition, and Montana Rotary District 5390. With support from generous donors and community partners, as well as hard working Interact members, the Interact Club raised enough money to fund half the cost of their trip. The remaining cost was paid by the individual travelers.

“The outpouring of support from our community was remarkable and much appreciated,” said Jen Lane, Interact Club Advisor.



Interact members pose with their new Guatemalan friends.



Sam and Will Lane carrying a bio-sand filter to a Guatemala home.

Those attending the trip included: Seniors - Olivia Lynn, Kade Edgerton; Juniors - Daniel Wyse, Parker Hufnagel, Hayden Stubbendeck, Will Lane, and Jordan Jensen; Sophomores - Sam Lane, Gracie Hines, and Zach Wickens; chaperones - Rachael Stubbendeck, Scott Hufnagel, and George Jenkins; Interpreter Sarah Hamburg; and Lane.

The Townsend Interact Club thanks the community, individuals, and businesses that helped make its international trip possible.

Interact is a Rotary-sponsored service club for youth ages 12-18 who want to connect with leaders in their community and around the world to take action, discover new cultures, promote international understanding, become leaders in their schools, and make new friends from across the globe. Interact clubs are required to complete two service projects each year: one to benefit their local community and another to promote international understanding. Rotary club members mentor and guide Interact members as they carry out projects and develop leadership skills.

—Patrick Plantenburg, Rotary Club of Townsend

District 5390 Calendar

September 5-8: Rotary Zone Institute 2019, Denver, CO

February 28-March 1 - PETS Denver, CO

April 17-18, District Conference, Fairmont Hot Springs, MT

June 5-8, 2020: Rotary Intl. Conference, Honolulu, HI

Special Month

August is Membership & Extension Month. Share Rotary!



Big Sky News

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Sandy Wong
Rotary Club of Billings

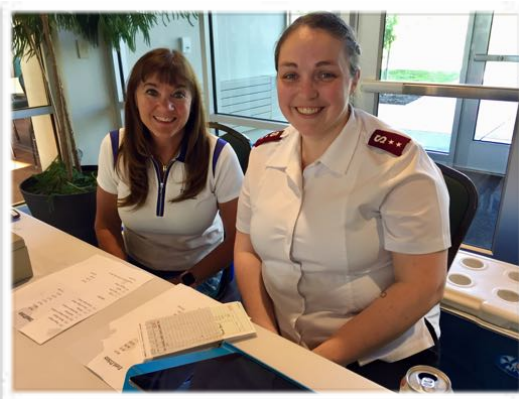
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Rotary members in Missoula volunteer at Salvation Army Family Day July 11



Kathy Schulte and Ryan Boyd check in guests.

Members of the Rotary Club of Missoula helped manage events at the annual Salvation Army Family Day held July 11 in Missoula. Boyd, club secretary, is an officer at Missoula's Salvation Army and her connections

opened the volunteer opportunity for the Club members.



Holli Rankin paints faces.

Kurt Ingold and Mike Schauf collected money for hamburgers and hot dogs. Kathy Schulte and Ryan Boyd checked in participants. Holli Rankin and Martha Ripley painted

vampires and fairies on children's faces. Victoria Emmons and Khalid Bouzina manned the ring toss game.

—Victoria Emmons, PE,
Rotary Club of Missoula

EXTRA EXTRA!

Read all about it!

ROTARY CLUB NEWS EDITORS:

The next DEADLINE for stories in *BIG SKY NEWS* is August 27, 2019, for the September issue. Please send photos in .jpg format and stories in Word or Text to: Victoria Emmons, Editor, at district5390.newsletter@gmail.com. Please rename each photo submitted to indicate club name and subject, for example: GreatFallsFundraiser. Thank you!