OTHER AREA MEETINGS FOR MAKEUPS

Rogue Gateway
www.roguegateway.org
Thursdays at noon
Wild River Public House
Grants Pass
www.greatergprotary.org
Fridays at 7:00 a.m.
Tap Rock Grill
Illinois Valley
Tuesdays at noon
Wild River Brewing
249 N. Redwood Highway
Cave Junction
District Website
http://www.district5110.org/
Did you know... *You can make up a meeting online*
District 5110 eClub
www.eclub.district5110.org/

CLUB DATES

December 9—Christmas Party

EVERGREEN FEDERAL BANK

We would like to thank Evergreen Bank for printing "paper" COGS for us.

ROTARY: MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Rotary International President
HS Riseley
www.rotary.org
District 5110
District Governor
Claudette McWilliams
www.district5110.org
Grants Pass Rotary Club
President
Cynthia Harelson
President-Elect
Jean Zech-Manhart
President-Nominee
Bill Thorp
Past President
Nelson Maler
Secretary Brenda Fisher
Treasurer Ann Rusk
Directors
Stefan Harris
Diane Hoover
Ryan Mulkins
Ken Northrup
Sandy Puntney
Walt Slater
www.grantspassrotary.org

The 4-Way Test
Of things we think, say or do
1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOOD WILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIP?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

President
Cynthia Harelson
and Pinch

Rotary Club of Grants Pass

Chartered February 23, 1924

COGS—PAPER EDITION **September 27, 2017**

WHO'S WHO

GREETERS
Ann Bauer and Bill Ertel
SONG AND PLEDGE
Tina Gotchall
INSPIRATION
John McCafferty
SERGEANT AT ARMS
Keith Heck

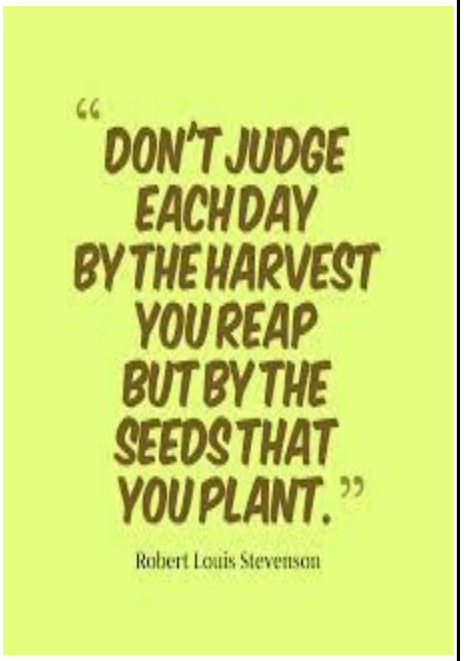
COMING UP

October 4
Rogue Duck Derby
October 11
Bradley Putters
Brad Converse
October 18
Rotary Peace Fellow
Bianca Neff
October 25
Vocationals
November 1
The Daily Courier update
Scott Stoddard
November 8
Safety update
Bill Landis

TODAY

Today we will be treated to the vocationals of Megan Pratt and Chris Cauble. This is a great way to get to know some of our newest members. We always enjoy these programs.

TODAY'S QUOTE



ROTARY RENDEZVOUS

Annual TRF Rendezvous

By Charles L. Root 2017-09-24

Presidents and TRF Chairs,

Be sure to attend our annual TRF Rendezvous and Grants meeting October 20-21. We have a solid program and wonderful speakers including, Ramu Damodaran, from the United Nations; our Global Grant Scholar – Pax Matipwiri, physician and Director of Health Projects Malawi, Africa; Bianca Neff, Rotary Peace Fellow, and candidates for District Governor.

Planned events include a special polio plus activity and surprises from Past District Governor Jim Lussier. Those who know Jim will not want to miss.

All events will be held at Umpqua Community College, north of Roseburg. Dinner Friday night will be at the beautiful Lang Center on the top of the hill at the Wine Institute and Saturday will be at the Laverne Murphy Center in the main part of campus.

Saturday seminar will include our quarterly grants meeting in the morning and breakouts all day long on many important TRF topics.

Please register by going to the calendar section in DACdb, scroll down to the event and hit Register. Friday night dinner is $40 and Saturday is FREE. If you have problems registering let me know - chuckroot1112@gmail.com Hotel reservations can be made at the Windmill Inn in Roseburg - call 541-673-0901 by Sept 29th and mention Rotary District 5110 - TRF" for our group block rate.

Be sure to bring new club members too. Everyone is welcome.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

A history lesson for people
who think that history doesn't matter

What's the big deal about railroad tracks?

The US standard railroad gauge (distance between the rails) is 4 feet, 8.5 inches. That's an exceedingly odd number.

Why was that gauge used?

Well, because that's the way they built them in England, and English engineers designed the first US railroads.

Why did the English build them like that?

Because the first rail lines were built by the same people who built the wagon tramways, and that's the gauge they used.

So, why did 'they' use that gauge then?

Because the people who built the tramways used the same jigs and tools that they had used for building wagons, which used that same wheel spacing.

Why did the wagons have that particular odd wheel spacing?

Well, if they tried to use any other spacing, the wagon wheels would break more often on some of the old, long distance roads in England . You see, that's the spacing of the wheel ruts.

So who built those old rutted roads?

Imperial Rome built the first long distance roads in Europe (including England) for their legions. Those roads have been used ever since.

And what about the ruts in the roads?

Roman war chariots formed the initial ruts, which everyone else had to match or run the risk of destroying their wagon wheels. Since the chariots were made for Imperial Rome , they were all alike in the matter of wheel spacing. Therefore the United States standard railroad gauge of 4 feet, 8.5 inches is derived from the original specifications for an Imperial Roman war chariot. Bureaucracies live forever.

So the next time you are handed a specification/procedure/process and wonder 'What horse's ass came up with this?', you may be exactly right. Imperial Roman army chariots were made just wide enough to accommodate the rear ends of two war horses

Now, the twist to the story:

When you see a Space Shuttle sitting on its launch pad, there are two big booster rockets attached to the sides of the main fuel tank. These are solid rocket boosters, or SRBs. The SRBs are made by Thiokol at their factory in Utah . The engineers who designed the SRBs would have preferred to make them a bit fatter, but the SRBs had to be shipped by train from the factory to the launch site. The railroad line from the factory happens to run through a tunnel in the mountains, and the SRBs had to fit through that tunnel. The tunnel is slightly wider than the railroad track, and the railroad track, as you now know, is about as wide as two horses' behinds.

So, a major Space Shuttle design feature, of what is arguably the world's most advanced transportation system, was determined over two thousand years ago by the width of a horse's back end.

(this isn't new—you might have seen it before—I just think it's interesting enough to review again.)