

Birthdays & Anniversaries
 Upcoming Events
 Announcements

Mark your calendar! **Holtville Rotary's Annual Pulled Pork Cook-Off** will be held Saturday, April 20th!

Polio continues to be Rotary's top priority. Rotary and its partners have reduced the incidence of polio by 99.9% but unless we eradicate polio within 10 years, as many as 200,000 new cases could occur worldwide each year. No child anywhere is safe until we completely eradicate this disease. 2024 was not an easy year for polio eradication, with an increase in wild poliovirus transmission in the remaining two endemic countries and new outbreaks, including in Gaza. And yet global commitment to polio eradication remains as high as ever. 1991 was the year of the last case of polio in the Western Hemisphere. Ending polio endures and remains our top humanitarian goal. This will be our gift to the children of the world. We have an opportunity to get to zero cases, but if we don't keep working, polio could quickly make a comeback, paralyzing many thousands of children again in our lifetime. Governments, with support from the GPEI, have the tools and strategies needed to end polio for good, but we need your help to finish the job. 93 cases of Wild Poliovirus were reported this past year. Your donations to PolioPlus will be matched 2:1 by The Gates Foundation. For more information on ways to support the eradication of Polio, please visit www.endpolio.org

- January 29th: Regular meeting
- February 5th: Ruben Niebla, Pitching coach for the San Diego Padres
- February 12th: Four Way Speech Contest
- February 19th: Paige Faubion, BESD Dance Program

January Birthdays:

28th: Bob Shank

Member Anniversaries:

- 1st: Robert Trimm, 27 years
- 1st: Jeff Jones, 27 years
- 24th: Greg Smith, 35 years

Wedding Anniversaries:

- 7th: Sam and Wanda Couchman, 13 years
- 11th: Sal and Diane Ortiz, 39 years
- 20th: Robert and Betty Trimm, 35 years

This Week's Meeting

Visiting Rotarians: Paige Lovitt, Imperial Breakfast Club

Guests: Jason Fifield, Micah Lambert, both with Agtegrity

Recognitions: **Sam Couchman** led the meeting today. Sam was feeling magnanimous, no recognitions!

Program: Mercedes Wheeler introduced Jason Fifield who is associated with Agtegrity which is a local agricultural company. Agtegrity's focus is using drones as a modern tool in agriculture. Drones are one of the many new tools used in farming. They are safe, dependable and increase the time efficiency in getting the task completed. Their use varies from imaging a field to determine the weak and troubled spots in a field. Thermal imaging allows the farmer to see where the troubled spots are in the field. Once the spot is located, individuals can examine the area to determine what exactly the problem is. They are also used to deliver beneficial insects which will work to eliminate insects which can cause damage to the field. In our Valley, they spread Green Lace Wings to attack aphids, which are a significant problem. They are able to deliver seed, pollen, fertilizer and just about any type of material used to benefit the field and crop which is growing. The drones that Jason's company flies are very "hi-tech" and expensive. The drones are usually programmed at the field site and fly a specific pre-determined grid rather than flying the drone manually. They can be in the air for up to 45 minutes before their batteries need to be re-charged, which with the latest models can be done in about 10 minutes. Drones don't always fly. There are drones that are wheel or track driven in a field, which also carry out a specific task like weeding, thinning or cultivating. Technology is definitely becoming a bigger part of agriculture, especially here in our Valley. With the cost of labor increasing, the farmer is looking for ways to lower labor costs and still get the job done. Thanks Jason, for delivering a great program today!

Drone joke of the week: What's all this nonsense about nothing flying at LAX? My drone's been flying around there all morning, no problem!