



## The Big Wheel

Club 2520, District 6150  
April 17, 2023  
Volume 105, Issue 38  
Rotary Club of Jonesboro  
P.O. Box 654  
Jonesboro, AR 72403  
Chartered August 1, 1919

## This Week's Program -- April 18, 2023

### Growing Arkansas' IT Talent Pipeline

Arkansas Center for Data Sciences (ACDS) is a non-profit dedicated to building and retaining top Data Science and IT talent in the state of Arkansas. ACDS partners with companies large and small across all industries to facilitate apprenticeship programs across the state of Arkansas. An apprenticeship is an employer-driven model that combines on the job learning with related classroom instruction. Their vision is for Arkansas to become a global leader in the transformation of existing industries through the application of data analytics and related computing capabilities involving the integration of technical and business skills, advancement of talent pipelines and ongoing upgrades to relevant workforce skills.



Bill Yoder serves as the Executive Director and will speak to our Rotary Club about their vision as they move forward to grow this very needed pipeline.

## In the News

### Valley View Scholarship Recipient

Gracey James was awarded a Rotary scholarship. She is a student at Valley View High School and will attend A-State in the fall. Her major will be in health studies. She plans to get a degree in occupational therapy.

*(Pictured are President Will Branch, Gracey James, Candice James, and Cindy Chadwick, VV Interact Sponsor)*



### Jonesboro Scholarship Recipient ???????



Alison Koons was awarded a Rotary scholarship. She is a student at Jonesboro High School and will attend Lyon College in the fall. She has been accepted in the Honors Program and plans to major in pre-veterinarian.

*(Pictured are JHS Counselor Charles Gabe, President Will Branch, Alison Koons, Wendy Jordan, and Ronnie Koons.)*

Congratulations to Gracey and Alison.

## Good News -- April 11, 2023

**Jeremy Colton** carried the mic for Good News.

**Brian Rega** announced there was still time to support public radio. Secondly the second meeting of Rotary after hours was being held today from 4 - 6 p.m.

**Wes Eddington** attended a gala where an Elvis impersonator was flat on. It was a wonderful experience.

**Norman Stafford** thanked everyone who participated in putting labels inside children's books. We have plans to read to pre-schoolers.

**Brenda Fasulo's** fourth daughter had her third child and is coming home today.

**Dana Kennedy** spent last week visiting with her daughter and granddaughter in Portland, Oregon.

## Club Leaders



Will Branch  
President



Erika Krennerich Chudy  
President - Elect



Dana L. Kennedy  
Secretary



Nancy Elphingstone  
Treasurer  
Club Service Chair



Jennifer Hannah  
President - Nominee  
Vocational Service Chair



Ruth A. Hawkins  
Rotary Foundation  
Chair



Adam Robert Sartin  
Assistant Governor

## Events

April 18th  
[Jonesboro Club Meeting April 18 - Bill Yoder](#)

April 25th  
[Jonesboro Club Meeting March 28 - Mayor Harold Copenhaver](#)

May 2nd

### Birthdays



Timothy L Lee  
April 16th



Brant Perkins  
April 16th



Glenn Lovett Jr.  
April 19th



Marvin E. Day III  
April 20th



Jill Clogston  
April 21st



David L Leonard  
April 24th



Jon David Carmack  
May 1st



Joe Williams  
May 5th



Erika Krennerich Chudy  
May 12th



Hatton Weeks  
May 12th

Brock Wooldridge only had one soccer team play last weekend.

## Last Week's Program -- April 11, 2023

### The Sinking of the Sultana

Retired Judge John Fogleman presented the story of the *Sultana* Historical Preservation Society. Though many of us had never heard of the *Sultana*, it has become known as the deadliest maritime disaster in United States history.

The *Sultana* was a 260-foot-long wooden steamboat, built in Cincinnati in 1863, which regularly transported passengers and freight between St. Louis and New Orleans on the Mississippi River. It was contracted by the U.S. Government to carry former Union prisoners of war from Confederate prisons, such as Andersonville, back into Northern territory. Although it was designed to only hold 376 persons, more than 2,000 Union troops were crowded onto the steamboat - more than five times its legal carrying capacity.

Shortly after leaving Memphis, Tennessee, the overstressed boilers exploded, blowing apart the center of the boat and starting an uncontrollable fire. Many of those who were not killed immediately perished as they tried to swim to shore. Of the initial survivors, 200 later died from burns sustained during the incident. Reports estimate the number of dead as high as 1,800, with hundreds of bodies floating in the river.

The *Sultana* had boiler trouble before the fateful journey to the North. The repairs would take three days. But Captain J. Cass Mason was in financial trouble. He needed the money the government was paying to transport the men. If he delayed the trip, the men would probably be put on other boats. Captain Reuben Hatch agreed to transport the soldiers if Mason would pay a kickback for each soldier. Afraid to delay, the mechanic was ordered to patch the boiler instead of doing the job right.

After the explosion, Mason and Hatch were not punished for the disaster. This is a story of greed. It was unintended consequences of bribery and of political favoritism. It was the story of corruption. Yet history chose not to remember this story. It was scarcely covered in the national news. The remains of the steamboat are believed to lie buried in Arkansas.

However, Fogleman contends that this story is one of heroism and that is the focus of the museum at Marion, Arkansas. These soldiers deserve to have their stories told. The people along the river who saw the disaster and helped the survivors and buried the dead deserve to have their stories heard.

Fogleman's ancestors were among those who tried to rescue the soldiers. For more information, go to <https://www.sultanadisastermuseum.com/>



## Report Card -- April 11, 2023

Total Active Members - 105  
Active members - 56  
Active-Service - 23  
Active-Partner - 5  
Active-Modern - 3  
Active-LOA - 1  
"Active Rule of 85" members - 17  
Honorary members - 6

Total Attendance - 42  
Active Members - 32  
Friends of Rotary - 0  
Honorary members - 0  
Proposed - 0  
Guests-10 [Read More](#)