



The Bath Tub

Hot Springs National Park Newsletter



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Week of February 17, 2025

Upcoming Programs:

February 19, 2025	Steve Arrison CEO Visit Hot Springs World's Shortest Parade Preview & More!
February 26, 2025	Saddiq Mir Restaurant Owner "The American Dream"
February 26, 2025	Bill Burrough City Manager State of the City Address

Club Leaders



[Sara Brown](#)
President



[Tim Metcalf](#)
President-Elect



[Justin Nicklas](#)
Vice President



[Gary McQuin](#)
Secretary



[Courtney W. Moore](#)
Treasurer



[Renee Bartholomae](#)
Club Director



[Nicole Herndon](#)
Club Director



[David Trice](#)
Club Director



[Mary E Zunick](#)
Club Director



[Arthur D. Floyd](#)
Sergeant-at-Arms



[Chris Franklin](#)
iPast President

AR Kids Read



Today's speaker, Executive Director of AR Kids Read, Kathy French, shared some enlightening, and at times very sobering information about the reading level of children in Arkansas. The mission and vision of AR Kids Read is a big one, but one that should always be the goal.

Mission: We nurture a love for reading through relationships.
Vision: EVERY child will read at grade level. We Read Together.

By the numbers -

6 out of every 10 third-graders are reading below grade level, only 36.2% of students have met grade-level benchmarks, 62% of children in Garland County are below grade-level reading by third grade, low literacy cost the nation \$250 billion annually in workforce nonproductivity, lost tax revenue, and crime. In the United States, 45% of children live in neighborhoods that lack public libraries or in homes where books are present because they can't afford them.

In 2011, the Nehemiah Network, a group of church pastors and business leaders, launched a reading initiative. Community leaders endorsed this initiative and supported transitioning it to a community-based nonprofit. As a result, AR Kids Read was founded in 2012. AKR programs are designed to meet the needs of at-risk students by focusing on creative, collaborative approaches that bring all the

resources of a community together. With the power of volunteers, college students, and numerous program partners, we encourage and equip students to reach their full potential. We help them build valuable literacy skills and gain academic confidence. But, this is about more than an individual student or school. As we work together, we foster the strength, stability, and long-term health of our entire community. This summer, AKR will join forces with the Garland County Library for a program that will be provided free for families. Become a volunteer and join other community

Birthdays

Kelsey B Blackmon

members collaborating to meet children's needs! AKR recruits, trains, and mobilizes volunteer tutors with school-aligned evidence-based curriculum, educational coaching, and mentorship for students in grades 1-3. Programs are adapted to both school and after-school settings. Curriculum and intervention techniques are specifically identified to meet each student's unique needs. AKR provides tutors with literacy materials, socio-emotional coaching, and the ongoing science of reading professional development. Together, we can ensure that ALL students read proficiently by the end of third grade, increasing the likelihood of them graduating from high school with the skills necessary to succeed in college and the workforce. For more information visit the website, [AR Kids Read | Promoting Literacy in Central Arkansas' Schools](#)

February 15th
Jared Zeiser
February 22nd
Libby Harrington
February 26th
Matt Barrett
March 2nd
Billy J Burrough Jr.
March 11th

Thank you to Matt Barrett for introducing our speaker.

4 Way Test



Dana Lambert – Invocation



Neal Harrington – Pledge



Cecil Cupp – 4 Way Test

The Rotary Scholarship Trust Drawing



Today's lucky numbers for a chance to win the pot went to **Gary Troutman** and **Matt Barrett**. The Ace of Diamonds is still hiding her shine somewhere in the deck!

There are now 36 cards left and the total of the pot is up to \$507. See you next Wednesday...bring your cash and help build our scholarship fund!

And, I will keep putting this here, but if you are willing to sell chances next week or any week in the future, please let me know.

Guests

Rotarian Libby Harrington introduced today's guests. She welcomed Lillian Alderman, a counselor at Mountain Pine High School. Lillian came to support Jakob Walpole who was our student guest speaker.



Mary Zunick introduced her guests Sarah Hutzler from Arvest Bank and co-founder of the Hot Springs Women's Leadership Alliance.

Hunter Temple introduced Bob Geer. Bob is currently a member of the Scenic 7 Rotary Club, but has submitted an application to transfer to our club.

Forrest Spicher introduced his guest, Steven Dowe, Region's Government & Institutional Banker.

It is always great to have guests at our meetings. If you know someone you would like to invite to join us and potentially become a member of our club, give them a call.

Student Guests



Sarah Richardson wasn't able to be with us, so Mary Metcalf was happy to step in and introduce Jalea Hawthorn, a senior at Cutter Morning Star High School. Jalea was with us for her second visit; we look forward to hearing from her next week as she shares future plans and aspirations beyond high school.



Scott Dews introduced Peyton Richard, a senior at Fountain Lake High School. This was Peyton's first visit, and we are looking forward to seeing her over the next 2 weeks and getting to know about her and her plans for the future.

Student Guest Speaker



As **Liz Robbins** stated in her introduction of Jakob Walpole, he is a lovely human being! Jakob shared a heartfelt story of how life is not always fair, but we always have choices. In the midst of the excitement of his senior year at Mountain Pine, his family received the news that his mom had ovarian cancer. Things have changed and the appointments on the calendar now include doctor's appointments and new words and phrases not used previously. The joy of his senior year and all the plans that come with that are now met with a heavy weight of anxiety and fear. These new fears have been coupled with the ordinary fears of where he will attend college, how it will be funded, and all the decisions that are made during his senior year. Jakob shared that through all of this he had learned something very valuable. He is not alone. The support from his friends and family has been tremendous. He has learned that even though he can't control what is going on, he can control his response. Jakob wants to now show the woman that has always been his biggest cheerleader that she shaped him into a man that has strength and resilience in the face of adversity. Jakob Walpole is a sports enthusiast, enjoys the outdoors, time with family, and hopes to return to Garland County after graduation to teach math. What an amazing young man! We wish him great success and will keep him, his mom, and family in our thoughts and prayers.

Announcements

Next Board Meeting

The next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 4 at noon at the Hot Springs Country Club. If you are working on your blue badge and have not attended a board meeting yet, we hope you will join us. All members are welcome to attend.

Rotary Information Meeting Scheduled

The next Rotary Information Meeting, a red to blue badge requirement, is scheduled for Wednesday, March 5, at 11:00 a.m. As soon as the meeting room is assigned, it will be announced. All members are welcome to attend.

Dick Gladden's Memorial Service

There will be a memorial service for Dick Gladden on Saturday, March 15 at 11:00 a.m. at Hot Springs Baptist Church.

Camp RYLA Fundraiser - Raffle to win Advertising Package

This advertising package has a \$2000 value. The drawing will be held March 5th, 2025, at Noon at the Rotary meeting. The cost of each ticket is \$20. All proceeds go towards covering Camp RYLA registration fees for local high school students and expenses to cover the cost of the package. Contact Brian Canales for more information.

New Facebook Page

Hot Springs National Park Rotary Club has a new Facebook Page! Please find us, follow the page, like our posts, and share it on your page when you think it's an interesting post. As you go through the week and attend or participate in various activities, share it with Matt Barrett so he can put it on our Facebook page.

Read Between The Wines

The Literacy Council of the Ouachitas is hosting Read Between The Wines on Thursday, February 20th at 6 pm at the Chittum at Forrest Lakes, 305 Forest Lakes Blvd. You will have a chance to enter to win a trip to Cabo San Lucas. Tickets can be purchased at the Literacy Council and at Black Ribbon Books. Contact Sarah Richardson for more information.

The Dick Gladden Rotary Minute



The Board voted at our last meeting to rename the Rotary Minute to the Dick Gladden Rotary Minute. A small way to honor a man who had such a big impact on our club throughout the years he was a member.

Rotarian Robert Zunick presented the following Rotary Minute:

Musician and author David Byrne, a Rock & Roll Hall of Famer with Talking Heads and a Grammy winner for a music film, got into the good news business in 2019. What started as a personal project to balance his daily dose of morning news that seemed to tie his stomach in knots every day, has evolved into a full editorial and administrative team that creates an online magazine that publishes an optimistic story most weekdays. Last October, Reasons to be Cheerful celebrated their fifth anniversary, and their story is told in the most recent issue of Rotary magazine. If you also find your stomach in knots most days, check out the February issue to learn more. But these aren't your average feel-good stories about a firefighter helping a cat down from a tree. Reasons to be cheerful reports on evidence-based solutions to some of the world's most pressing problems, from poverty to climate change. In fact, you may have read some of the publication's articles in your Rotary magazine. Rotary republishes the outlet's stories from time to time, and the two publications collaborate on other

pieces. My minute is up for today, but I'll be watching for good news from Rotarians around the world, to share with you in a future minute.

Red to Blue Badge

Congratulations to Jordan Stepka (pictured left) on receiving his blue badge presented by **Gary McKuin** (pictured right). Thank you, Gary, for another stellar presentation of the blue badge. It was noted by our guest speaker that this could possibly be the single thing she remembers most from our meeting. Welcome to Blue Badgeville! We hope that you will wear it proudly!

If you are working on your Red to Blue Badge and want to know what is



left on your list, see Don Floyd at his spot in the back of the Rotary meeting room.

Prospective Members

The Board and Membership Committee approved the following individual as a prospective member. This is the first of two publications for the proposed member. If there are no written objections sent to the secretary within 3 days of this second publication, he will become a member at our February 26, 2025, meeting.

Bob Geer

Geer, Inc.

Sponsored by Gary Troutman

Thought for the Week

This year's Rotary International Motto is "The Magic of Rotary". February is Literacy Month—a time to celebrate the power of reading and the opportunities it brings. Literacy unlocks potential, fuels imagination, and empowers lives. Books have the magic to transport us to new worlds, teach us, and inspire us to dream big.

President Sara Brown~


