

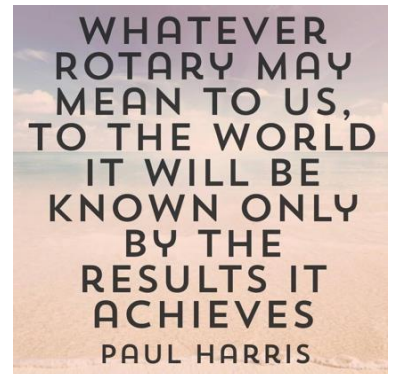


THE DAYBREAKER

January 16th, 2025



Today we had 15 in person attendees and 11 ZOOM attendees.



GUESTS: Neal Baker – guest of Dino Smoll

VISITING ROTARIANS: Chris Mills

INVOCATION: Pushpa Toppo

Service Opportunity: PHF Matching Program

The Board voted to extend the Matching Program for Paul Harris Fellow points until January 31st of 2025. With this program an anonymous donor will match your contribution to The Rotary Foundation of up to \$500. You can contact Steve Wagner to see where your contributions stand at this point and donate to "The Rotary Foundation". You can send your checks to Steve @ 3714 Litchfield Place, West Lafayette 47906.

Program: Casey Davenport - Lafayette Jefferson High School Assistant Principal

Our speaker today was Casey Davenport, the Assistant Principal at Jefferson High School. Casey began her teaching career teaching a kindergarten class and eventually worked her way up the grades and then became an administrator at JHS in 2022. She is in charge of the Special Ed programs at the high school, their 504's as well as the clubs.



She explained that the Special Ed programs include about 350 students, or 18% of the enrollment, but that this number often varies as students come and go to the school. There are 4 major programs, each of which are self-contained in their classrooms. There are 2 Essential Skills groups with students who have the most physical and intellectual challenges, and includes many students in wheelchairs and with multiple needs. These students are allowed to stay in school until 22 years of age. The Applied Skills group have significant intellectual

challenges, often functioning at a 2nd or 3rd grade level. The Heart Program is the newest and is designed for students who have behavioral problems in regular classrooms.

One of Casey's most rewarding accomplishments has been to set up opportunities for sports participation for her students. These are often a combined program with Special Olympics and IHSAA and include Unified Bocce Ball, Unified eSports, Unified Bowling and Unified Track. They also have a Best Buddies program monthly, community outings and a Zen Den at the school. The Unified sports programs match students with disabilities with traditional students and compete with other schools in the area and state. The programs have ten standards from the Special Olympics to be met and all have seen success on a state level and are popular with both the handicapped students and traditional students. The Best Buddies programs occur monthly and pair traditional and handicapped students for an activity, such as their program yesterday to tie-dye shirts. The Zen Den provides an area for students to go with multiple sensory opportunities. She noted that JHS is one of seven schools in Indiana to receive the Special Olympic Unified Champion School designation.

The problem is that these activities cost money. As an example, the very popular Bowling program cost over \$5,000 this year and her total budget for Special Education activities throughout the school is only \$1,500! Because of this problem she is often involved with fund raising and she presented her Bruck Barker Cactus to the Coliseum event which will be held on February 15th. This will be held at the Fairgrounds and includes a social hour, a silent auction, dinner and a keynote speaker and a live concert by Bruce Barker The Piano Man.

Thought of the Week: When someone tells me “no,” it doesn't mean I can't do it, it simply means I can't do it with them. — Karen E. Quinones Miller

Trivia Question for the week: What states don't observe daylight savings time?

The answer to last week's trivia question: What classic Looney Tunes character suffers from rhotacism?



Remember when you were a child and spoke by making your “R’s” sound like “W’s” and everyone thought it was cute? That’s known as rhotacism and some people live with it even as adults. Rhotacism is a speech impediment that is defined by the lack of ability, or difficulty in, pronouncing the “R” sound. In English, the most common occurrence of this type is a pronunciation perceived as closer to “W”. An example of rhotacism would be Elmer Fudd’s pronunciation of "rabbit" as "wabbit". The Looney Tunes character, is notorious for his exaggerated rhotacistic speech ("Be vewwy quiet... I'm hunting wabbits").

UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

January 23rd – Wes Tillett – LUM

January 30th – Ryan O’Gara – Area Planning Commission

February 6th – Luisa White – Legal Aid

February 20th – Offsite Meeting at Wanderlust Coffee

February 27th – Purdue Nurse Practitioner Scholarship Awards

March 6th – David Teter – Greyt Event Media

