

Not even a 10-minute fire alarm set could keep us away from this week's speaker, our International Scholar, Abby Blocker! Broadcasting all the way from Cape Town, South Africa, Abby zoomed in to update us on all that was going on with her education and her life. For those that do not know, Abby received an international scholarship to study in South Africa through the assistance of our rotary club. Her goal is to receive her PhD using a combination of biomedical engineering and telecommunications to create a virtual medical facility to help provide care in remote areas in South Africa and beyond. Due to bureaucratic issues in the medical field, Abby has informed us that she will need an extension of 6 months in order to reach her goal. Fortunately, she has been able to get the funding to continue through the support of several rotary clubs. Her goals are lofty, and her patience is unwavering. The complexity of this idea involved so many moving parts, that a minor delay is not unexpected. In a country that has 12 spoken languages and somewhat sketchy technology, finding the solutions sometimes means inventing them! Abby plans to be home for the Christmas holiday season, and will meet with us in person then.

Other news from Abby:

\*She has been selected to make a presentation in October at a conference on telecommunication and remote virtual access.

\* She has also participated in a competition to give a 3-minute pitch about her PhD. While she was not the winner, she said it was good practice for her orals.

\*She received a Paul Harris from The Rotary Club of Cape Town and her mom was there to participate in this event.

\*She is learning the isixhosa language (one of 12 in South Africa and uses 3 clicks) and is exploring the development of a translation system to be used at the medical outpost to help with communications between the patient and the doctor. Molo Unjari? (How are you?)

Other News:

Oct 21 – Cooter Pond Clean Up 8:30-11

Oct 25 – Feed Citrus, Citrus County Fairgrounds, 7-10

Oct 1- One Bag Event and Club Meeting at Whispering Pines Park

Oct 2 – Blessing Pantry Restock – 1st Presbyterian Church 7:15

Oct 9- Feed Citrus, Citrus County Fairgrounds, 7-10

Oct 12 – Habitat Home Build – Citrus Springs, 8-12

Announcement – the Six Club Social has been rescheduled from Oct 12 to Feb 1, 2025

50/50 - \$24 given to CART (anonymous donor)

Happy/sad - \$59