

# Rotary



## Club of Franklin Daybreak

No story selected for  
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### Club Leaders



Rick VanGilder  
iPast  
President  
President



Dale B. West  
President -  
Elect



Audrea Shields-Burch  
President -  
Nominee



Katelyn VanderWoude  
Secretary



Angela Dills  
Past  
President  
Treasurer



Billi J. Black  
Membership  
Chair  
Past  
President



Benjamin Joseph Rodriguez  
Past  
President  
Rotary  
Foundation  
Chair



Ronald F. Winecoff  
Sergeant-at-Arms



Luke H. Smith  
Community  
Service Chair



Lindsay Wright  
Club Public  
Image Chair

Fred Jones  
Diversity  
Equity &

## Franklin Panthers prepare for new season



Franklin High School Football Coach Josh Brooks presented the program at the Rotary Club of Franklin Daybreak on Tuesday, Aug. 19. Brooks has served at the head coach for the Franklin Panthers for 20 years.

Brooks discussed the challenges that faced the Panthers this year amidst the construction of a new high school. The Panthers are practicing on a new practice field at Macon Middle School and all home games are being played at Western Carolina University.

42 players round out the Panther team this year: 15 seniors, 23 juniors and 4 sophomores. There are 7 returning starters on offense and 6 returning starters on defense.

"The team has a great attitude," said Brooks. "Both on the field and in life. We're playing a tough schedule in a tough conference."

Construction of the athletic complex at Franklin High is expected to be complete for the 2026 football season. The academic buildings are slated for completion for the 2027 school year.



Inclusion  
Past  
President



Vicki  
Lawrence  
RYLA Point of  
Contact  
Interact Club  
Sponsor  
Past  
President  
Youth  
Protection  
Officer



Kristy Firkins  
Smith  
Club Admin  
Chair  
Past  
President

Brook, a native of Sylva, is married to Bekah. They have four children and attend Prentiss Church of God.

## Cook receives Paul Harris Fellow Award

Ben Rodriguez, Foundation chair of the Franklin Daybreak Rotary Club, presented Rotarian Bob Cook with a Paul Harris Fellowship Award. The Paul Harris Fellow Award is a prestigious Rotary International recognition for individuals who demonstrate exceptional commitment to Rotary's mission of service above self. It is bestowed upon Rotarians or community members in whose name a cumulative donation of \$1,000 or more is made to the [Rotary Foundation](#), which funds global humanitarian, educational, and PolioPlus eradication efforts.



## Rotarians to support Iotla Elementary School staff



The Rotary Club of Franklin Daybreak is once again sponsoring Iotla Valley Elementary's Student Lighthouse Team (SLT). This is a group of students that apply and interview for their role and are chosen by the school staff. The program is based on the 7 Habits of Highly Effective People and designed to guide these young people to learn life skills, conflict resolution, handling change, and leading their peers. It is much like Rotary's guiding principles for elementary students.

"Our club has sponsored this group for several years now," said Emily West Deal. "To help them kick off the school year with the new SLT, we will collect items and pack gift bags for the staff members of IVE. The SLT will deliver them to staff as a welcome back thank you gift and their first service project of the new school year. This is our 3<sup>rd</sup> year of hosting this event, and it has been a huge success!"

Here is a link to sign up for items -

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4AA8A82BA5FFC61-57516563-welcome>

\*Please note – you can sign up for 1 or all 80 items. The list has been downsized this year to try and focus more on quality rather than quantity, as well as ask staff what things they need or would like.

If you prefer to donate cash-in-lieu of purchasing items, please let Emily know.

Purchase the items you sign up for and bring them to the Tuesday, Sept. 30 meeting.

## What's Rotary?



Billi Black will be leading our Discover Rotary program this Tuesday, Aug. 26. It will be a great day to invite a guest who would like to learn more about Rotary. The club meets at 7:30 a.m. in the Angel Medical Center cafeteria.

## Events

No Events found

## Birthdays



[Angela Dills](#)  
August 29th



[Ronnie D. Beale](#)  
September 10th



[Rachel Hoskins](#)  
September 13th



[Teresa Murray](#)  
September 16th



[Robert W. Cook III](#)  
September 20th

## Wedding Anniversaries



[Miguel A Esquivel](#)  
August 28th



[Edward R. Shatley](#)  
September 2nd

## Years of Service



[Kristy Firkins Smith](#)  
15 Years



[Dana Murray](#)  
5 Years



[Kellie Burns](#)  
2 Years