



ROTARY CLUB OF PARADISE RIDGE NEWSLETTER

Serving the Ridge since 1946: WE ARE PEOPLE OF ACTION

Our Club President: Melissa Crick

Web Page: paradiserotary.org

On Facebook: Rotary Club of Paradise

Our October 08, 2026 Weekly Club Meeting

Volume 4, Issue 12

President Melissa Crick conducted this meeting.

Guests in Attendance: marvelous Friend Of Rotary, Margaret Kelly; Uncle Don, Guest of Heidi L.; and Shelley Miller, Our Speaker, of the Butte County Local Food Network.

HIGHLIGHTS: Pres. Melissa began the meeting by leading the Pledge of Allegiance and an Invocation by Ron J.

Pres. Melissa called on Renee M., who had a couple brief announcements. First, Renee complimented the Blues & Brews Team for a successful event. Next, she mentioned that the Elk's Lodge organization had contacted her regarding meeting at their facility. Lastly, Renee asked if those in attendance that were involved with the Blues & Brews would please remain after the Lunch Meeting to have a short debrief about the event.

Next, Donn T., the Lunch Food/AV/Photo guy interrupted to make a brief announcement. He let everyone know the microphones we use are uni-directional. That means we must speak directly into them for the speaker to be heard adequately and clearly.

Pres. Melissa recognized and thanked the crew that made the Blues & Brews a huge success. Individually they are: Tom B. for the Bands & Music; Ryan for managing the Bar; Mickey R. and Shannon H. for ticket sales and armbands; and Kevin & Margaret Kelly for dealing with the food and food sales. Pres. Melissa was out of town.

Heidi L. grabbed a mic to remind everyone that one of our notable Community Service Projects will return on Saturday, October 10 (past). The starting point/meeting place was Skyway Crossroad Rd. and the uphill lanes of Skyway. Grabbers, vests, and orange bags will be supplied. The start time planned was 8:00 AM with expected duration of less than 2 hours. See pic, below.

PE Mickey announced the Polio Plus event to commemorate World Polio Day on October 24, from 9:30 AM to 1:00 PM. It will be held at Centennial Park in Chico and is hosted by Chico Noon Rotary Club. This will be a collaboration of Chico Noon Rotary, Chico Sunrise Rotary, Durham Rotary Club and our Club. It's being billed as a Family Fun Festival. There will be children's activities, 2 Hours of Corn Hole Competition, and likely a lot of Polio Plus promotional information. Anyone available to help set-up, staff a booth, and clean up is encouraged to let PE Mickey know so she can sign you up.

Rotarians know that Polio Eradication is Rotary's big International Health Project, but the public is not that well informed. So this is an effort to get the message out there. Rotary District 5160 Polio Plus Committee Chair, Karin Lightfoot, is a member of Chico Noon Rotary. Considering the International scope of Rotary's polio eradication effort, there will likely be gatherings like this around the District and across the country.

Pres. Melissa added a Polio Plus Trivia question to the above, "Does anyone know where the very first Polio Eradication event took place?" Spoiler Alert: it was in the Philippines! She didn't mention it, and do you know that a Rotarian began the whole effort? Yes! That was in 1988. Go to rotary.org and read the whole story.

Tom B. related a Blues & Brews surprising and heartwarming event that took place that Saturday. He told us how typically each band received their pay in cash, in an envelope. After receiving it, sometime later, a member of Soul Posse came to him and said something to the effect, “Here is our pay. We want to donate it to the scholarship fund.” Tom says anytime and anywhere you see/hear that band, be sure to thank them.

Renee M. decided she had another important announcement. Since she is the defacto manager of the storage container since the majority of its contents are used at the Crab Feed, she felt it necessary to let everyone know the following. An equipment sign-out/sign-in clipboard will be stationed in the storage unit. During equipment retrieval for Blues & Brews she discovered some needed items were missing. This is not good. Renee said, “If anyone needs to borrow Club equipment for a minor event or personal use, that’s okay, but we need to know who has the item(s) to facilitate retrieval.”

Pres. Melissa let us know that Scott S. has organized a fund raising, Tri-Tip Sandwich sale at the PHS Homecoming Game on Saturday, October 10 (past). All the proceeds will go directly to the Police Department to assist with Paradise Police Department’s Sergeant Alvie’s medical and family expenses as he recovers from his recently received injuries.

Pres. Melissa added one more thing to a busy Saturday Calendar. The YRA Interact Club will be holding a Pickle Ball tournament at the Paradise Junior High School Pickle Ball court from 1:00 to 6:00 PM(past). She said it is exciting to watch, so stop by and see how it’s done.

She also announced a Career Expo Planning meeting to follow the Lunch Meeting. It was planned for the usual place and time, i.e., 2:00 PM at the Tri-Counties Bank Conference Room.

Pres. Melissa will be traveling to Germany next week for a Ukrainian Art Show. Club Secretary and Past President Maureen W. will preside at the Lunch Meeting. The Program next week will be presented by past Club Member Tom Taylor. He will tell us about the future of a movie theater in Paradise. A tour of the facility will happen after the Lunch Meeting.

Then on October 22, Past Pres. Tom B. will staff the podium. The Lunch meeting Program that week will be presented by Heidi L. on the subject of Sober Grad Night. Pres. Melissa inserted that there may be some surprises at that meeting. The following week, October 29, is the 5th Thursday, so there will be no Lunch Meeting.

It’s Rotary Trivia Time!

This week’s question is: The Rotary Foundation was established in 1917. What was the amount of money of the first contribution to the Foundation and from what Club? Don’t know? (Hint: You can look it up on rotary.org, or see the answer at the bottom of the Newsletter.)

THIS WEEK’S PROGRAM:

Shelley Miller presented information from the Butte County Local Food Network. Shelley works in the *Grown Program*. She studied Early Childhood Education, Psychology, and Nutrition. She taught in the Pre-School environment for several years before joining the Butte County Local Food Network. GROWN is an acronym that stands for Growing Resilient Optimism With Nature. Shelley is the Program Director of GROWN. Her background in Nutrition inspired her to discover where food comes from, how nature supports us, and how creativity can bring it all together. Her background in Early Childhood Education inspired her to pass on the Nutrition component to students of all ages.

First, a definition of GROWN. The program provides hands-on garden and food education from pre-school through high school, strengthened by educator training through *Life Lab* and *Pilot Light*. GROWN teaches gardening, nutrition, agriculture, food systems, and environmental literacy. The Program Serves approximately 2,750 students across 15 Public Schools in Butte County during the 2026-27 school year.

Okay, so how do they do it? During an instructional session students gather in the garden for a short introduction. The lesson begins with a question (phenomenon), observation, story, or seasonal garden task. Students participate through hands-on activities such as planting, harvesting, tasting, drawing, dancing, singing or investigating the garden classroom. Students practice sharing observations and learning from one another. Lessons end with reflection, cleanup, and a connection back to the classroom or home. One must bear in mind that Shelley is working with students in a wide range of ages, including very young ones.

There are 5 overarching objectives. Create confidence in identifying plants, herbs, fruits, vegetables, and garden life. Students expand their palettes by tasting the fresh foods that are growing. Students learn that they can grow something, care for it, and take responsibility for living things. Students establish peer-to-peer connections by hearing each other's questions and observations. What students learn in the field is taken home and shared.

The benefits for students is undeniable, but the long term community benefits are a little more subtle. Years from now some of these students will have no fear of attempting gardening. The concept of Farm-to-Table is fundamental to the need for food sovereignty. If students are exposed to the realities of growing food, they will make informed decisions later in life. The initiatives that Butte County Local Food Network actively pursues are complex. You too will be better informed by having a look at their website: bclocalfood.org.

Rotarians the World over subscribe to
THE ROTARY FOUR-WAY TEST
of all we think, say, and do.

1. Is it the TRUTH? 2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOOD WILL & BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

FUTURE PROGRAM SPEAKERS:

- ⚙ 10/15 - Tom Taylor- Future of the Former Paradise Cinema Facility & Tour Following Lunch Meeting
- ⚙ 10/22 - Paradise Parade of Flags and Sober Grad Night Updates with Heidi Lange and Friend
- ⚙ 10/29 - Dark! No Lunch Meeting (5th Thursday)
- ⚙ 11/05 - All Club Meet Up @ Mt. Mike's
- ⚙ 11/12 - District Governor Woody Fridae's Official Club Visit

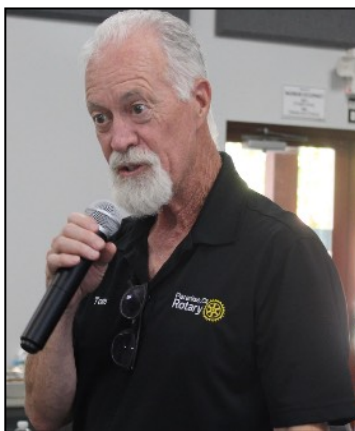
LIGHTEN UP:

To make a small fortune, invest a large fortune. — *Bruce Cohn*

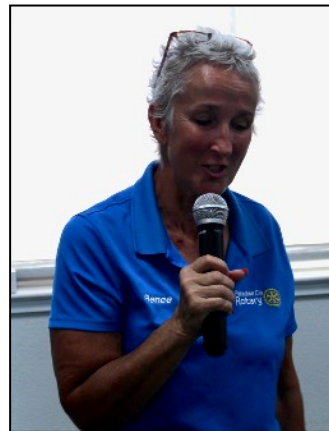
THE PICTURE PAGE



Pres. Melissa



Tom B.



Renee M.

Growing Resilient Optimism With Nature (GROWN)

- Serves approximately **2,750 students** across 15 Public Schools in Butte County during the 2026–27 school year.
- Provides hands-on garden and food education from preschool through high school, strengthened by educator training through Life Lab and Pilot Light.
- Builds and supports **school gardens and orchards** as outdoor classrooms.
- Teaches **gardening, nutrition, agriculture, food systems, and environmental literacy**.
- Works alongside **schools, farmers, and community partners** to strengthen Farm to School in Butte County.



Shelley Miller



THE ROTARY TRIVIA ANSWER:

The contribution was \$26.50 from the Rotary Club of Kansas City, MO!