



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

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Our July 23, 2026 Weekly Club Meeting

Volume 4, Issue 3

President Melissa Crick conducted this meeting.

Guests in Attendance: Dicha Perez, Superintendent of CCCS, Prospective Club Member and daughter Nova; Mieke Starr, Adult Leader of the Pineridge 4-H Club; Bill & Di Taylor, 4-H Parents; and our 4-H Speakers Adela Aguilar, Baylee Taylor, and Morgan Mallory.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Pres. Melissa began this meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and an Invocation. Table Introductions followed.

Ryan M. stood to remind everyone of the Doug Speicher 3rd Annual Community Celebration happening on Friday, August 7th. It will be held at Paradise Community Park, at 6:00 PM. We will be doing Bar Service, so he did a pitch for help. Ryan would like 2 people to “pour” and at least 2 people to help set up and clean up. Notice on the attached flyer that the band *Decades* will be providing music! Contact Ryan to volunteer your services.

Pres. Melissa reminded everyone of the Paradise Elementary School Grand Opening coming up next week. It's on Thursday, July 30th, so we will be meeting there. Yes, it is the 5th Thursday of the month, but this is special! Show up at 1:00 PM for Meet and Greet and Ice Cream! Then the Ribbon Cutting will take place at 1:30 PM with school facility tours following. Sheila Craft is handling any questions. The detailed flyer is attached again this week.

Pres. Melissa continued by pointing out the “Pay-It-Forward - Helping Altadena Rebuild” flyer. Hope Crisis Response Network is at it again, this time in Altadena. They are offering an all expense paid week helping them rebuild homes in Altadena (So. Cal) after their fire. This would be a rewarding week long service opportunity for anyone that can spare the time. The flyer is attached to the Newsletter pmail.

Heidi L., our Community Activities Lead, pitched the Social on August 14th, *Astronomy at Paradise Lake*. PRPD conducts this as a Rotary Exclusive event. Check out the flyer! A Guided Kayak Tour begins at 5:30 PM, then the Laser guided Astronomy Tour begins at 8:00 PM.

PDG Pam G. called on Ryan and Dani M. re: something about a cruise. Yes, they went on a cruise to Alaska. I think about 4 Bells were assessed.

Pres. Melissa recognized 2 people that didn't attend last week's meeting. She presented PP Kelli G. with the treasured Past President's Pin and a Coy Fish scarf from Taipei. Next, she beckoned our new President Elect, Mickey R. (it is after July 1st, after all). Pres. Melissa presented Mickey with a traditional Republic of China greeting scarf, deemed similar to an Hawaiian Lei. She also presented PE Mickey with a Rotary Backpack.

Pres. Melissa noted that Chico Noon Club President Beau McSwain is creating a Rotary *Swag Bag*. To accommodate all the stuff that we collect at Conferences, Assemblies, Conventions, and other events.

Chris R. pitched the Music On The Green at Magalia Community Center that is ongoing until August 22. He also mentioned Movie Nights on selected Fridays.

Heidi L., Town Council Member, drew attention to a new Town related website. *Paradise2045* is a new website holding a survey to provide input to an update of the Town's General Plan. It deals mostly with zoning of undeveloped or underdeveloped areas of Town and where we're going for the next 20 years. It is formally called the *Paradise Changes Survey*. Easily accessed, just enter Paradise2045 in your browser search line and you will be taken to the Town of Paradise survey portal page. Click on the blue *Click Here* link button and you're good to go. This is the latest of many opinion surveys that have been initiated in recent years, none of them unimportant.

Lunch Guy Pitch: Not announced at the meeting is the need for everyone to realize that we're getting a good deal from Lofi Cafe. They recognize and appreciate us with a discount on the Lunch Sandwiches. I usually augment the sandwiches with Save Mart's cole slaw and sometimes a dessert item. It's a great lunch meal. I recommend patronizing LoFi because their food offerings are of high quality.

THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM:

This week we were treated to an education about the 4-H activities of the Pineridge 4-H Club that is our local chapter. 4-H is a nationally organized youth development program with thousands of chapters across the country under the umbrella of University Cooperative Extension Programs..

Pineridge 4-H is a small club working to grow in numbers. Right now their main mission is to let the Ridge Community know that they exist and what they have to offer. One important difference between 4-H and FFA is that 4-H welcomes and accommodates youth from Kindergarten through High School, whereas FFA is strictly High School centric. Another notable difference is that 4-H is led by volunteer parents and FFA is advised by the teachers of the High School that club is associated with.

Today's speakers are 16 and 17 year old members who claim 10 and 11 years of 4-H membership. Like other youth development organizations, 4-H has a Pledge, which is pretty lofty:

————— I pledge —————
my *head* to clearer thinking,
my *heart* to greater loyalty,
my *hands* to larger service,
my *health* to better living,
for my *club*, my *community*,
my *county*, and my *world*.

So this organization is not just about raising livestock. 4-H aims to develop character, respect for community service and life skills, all very worthwhile efforts.

Livestock activities is the first thing thought of in association with 4-H, but Life Skills are equally important. Life Skills taught include photography, sewing, hiking, archery, rockets, animal care, dog training, public speaking, and virtually all things livestock related. Bare in mind that the Life Skills are taught and nurtured by adults with expertise in a given area.

Consider how all encompassing the livestock rearing responsibilities are. Character traits required are dedication to duty (the ongoing needs of the task), a feeling of responsibility (animal dependence on the caregiver), technical knowledge (aspects of animal health), and compassion (recognition of the animal's needs). All of this leads up to sale of the animal at either the Silver Dollar Fair (Memorial Day Weekend) or the Butte County Fair (August). Animals are offered as either breeding stock or animals for slaughter. Proceeds of sale or auction go to the 4-H Member used for purchase of the next animal, cover costs incurred, and residual for a college savings fund.

Today's Speakers were 3 females, so a natural question in Q&A was, "Do you have *male* club members?" The answer is "Yes, but they are younger and we're looking for more." The Community Service aspect of membership was not elaborated on. At first glance, the Program appeared pretty benign. A closer look and listen revealed that 4-H Membership is definitely worthwhile and would provide great fodder for a resume.

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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:

7/30/26 - 5th Thursday, normally dark. Instead, come to the Grand Opening of
Paradise Elementary School, 1 p.m. (Wear your Rotary Shirt)

8/13/26 - Lacey Witten - Member Bio + An Update On The Latest From NCB

8/20/26 - PDG Pam Gray - Important RI Information We All Need

8/27/26 - Nicole LaJeunesse, Regenerating Paradise and PATCH Updates

LIGHTEN UP: Why is it we rejoice at a birth and grieve at a funeral?

It is because e are not the person involved.

— *Mark Twain (1835-1910)*

THE PICTURE PAGE





Adela Aguilar, Baylee Taylor, Morgan Mallory
(I think.)



Mieke Starr
4-H Leader