

ROTARY CLUB OF THE NORTH FORK VALLEY

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WEB SITES: www.rotary.org

Www.rotary5470.org

www.paoniarotary.org

LAST MEETING:

PROGRAM:

Since my right hand and note taker was absent last week, and since Hank Lohmeyer did such a great job of explaining what we heard at last week's club meeting, I will use his DCI story as a background for my explaining the program we heard.

KATHY WELT, a former member of our club, and now a very popular environmental engineer with the West Elk Mine just up the river from Paonia, discussed the severe threat to the coal mining industry in our area. Another long sentence, 37 words to be exact.

It was with some emotion that Kathy described the problems facing the industry. It could have a tremendous effect on many families living and working in the area.

On September 11th a federal district court ruling derailed the plans for the mine's lease modification and

operations expansion. The Arch Coal, the mine's owner has asked representatives of federal agencies to appeal the ruling. There need to be corrections of faults in the Environmental Impact Statement that the Forest Service and the BLM used in approving or disapproving the expansion plans.

Judge R. Brooke Jackson's ruling not only halted West Elk's expansion plans, but also vacated part of the Colorado Roadless Rule (CRR) which will hobble operations of all three North Fork mines. The 2012 CRR made an exemption of the North Fork mines. Colorado had decided to write it's own Roadless Rule, rather than use the federal rule.

Judge Jackson's ruling contended that the exemption did not consider the effects of coal use on "climate change". The Forest Service and BLM did everything they could to avoid the ruling. But the federal court's ruling is viewed in light of a wider federal policy to end coal fired electric generation, a policy called "the war on coal".

The North Fork Valley's EPA-designated "super compliant coal" has been a valued resource under the Clean

Air Act until the Supreme Court ruled carbon dioxide a pollutant.

There were many questions from the club members and the event did run overtime. Thanks Kathy.



TODAY:

Debbie Faulkner, "*Sliver Whiskers*", Older dogs for elderly people.

November 13th:

"Flight of the Eagle" update.

"Absence sharpens love, presence strengthens it"

Benjamin Franklin

HAVE YOU EVER NOTICED how some of your best ideas have popped into your head while you have been sitting in a boat fishing, playing a round of golf or sitting on a beach watching the waves roll in?

Down under the conscious mind is the subconscious mind. It is the store house of all of our impressions. It is the mental fireless cooker where our ideas

simmer and develop, while we are loafing. Newton was loafing under an apple tree when he saw an apple fall and got the gravitation idea.

While loafing and finding peace for his soul, Galileo watched the great swinging lamp. It gave him an idea of a pendulum swinging to and fro as a means of measuring the passage of time.

Watt was loafing in the kitchen when he noticed the steam lifting the top of the teakettle, and conceived the idea of the steam engine. Vacations are valuable investments. We should take little vacations every day. Many times we get more ideas and better ideas in two hours of creative loafing than eight hours at a desk.

Wilferd Peterson

"It's getting so if a man wants to stand well socially, he can't afford to be seen either with the Democrats or the Republicans."



by Will Rogers, of course



