



# The Joshua Tree

**April 23, 2024**

## HERITAGE & LEGACY AT THE VVHUSD

Education is of a vast importance to Rotary, and the same can be said about the Victor Valley Union High School District, as we heard this week from Superintendent **Carl Coles**.

The Victor Valley Union High School District serves approximately 11,500 students in grades 7-12 in the cities of Victorville and Adelanto. VVUHS was the region's first high school district, established in 1915. Its flagship school, Victor Valley High School, was the area's only high school until 1967 when neighboring Apple Valley built its own.

Today, VVUHS has three comprehensive high schools (Adelanto, Silverado and Victor Valley high schools); two schools of choice (Cobalt Institute of Math and Science and University Preparatory School); one junior high (Hook Junior High School); one middle school (Larrea Middle School); one grade 7-12 academy (Lakeview Leadership Academy); one virtual academy (Victor Valley Virtual Academy); and two alternative schools (Goodwill High School and Victor Valley Adult School).



Their newest school is Larrea Middle School, which opened on August 7. Larrea helps ease overcrowding at Hook Junior High School and Lakeview Leadership Academy, and this coincides with a reduction in class sizes to 25-to-1 in core classes at their middle schools and 32-1 in high school.

Carl is pleased to see the resounding success of the

Heritage Program in its inaugural year at Adelanto High School. This pilot program focused on college readiness for African American seniors, and AHS saw its college readiness for this demographic rise by more than seven times in a single year. This school year, Heritage is being expanded to all three of their large comprehensive high schools, along with the establishment of its sister program Legacy, which will serve the same needs for Latino students.

Heritage and Legacy are part of a district wide initiative to raise college readiness for ALL students. They do this through a focus on A-G — a group of classes that a student must complete to gain acceptance to a UC or CSU university. While not all students will choose to attend a university after high school, with A-G completion a student's options are virtually limitless. The current A-G completion rate at the VVUHS hovers around 40%. It is their goal to achieve an A-G rate of 75%, which would make VVUHS the most college-ready district in all of San Bernardino County.

### This Week's Functionaries

**Invocation:** Chris Ackerman  
**Flag Salute:** Arsalee Morales  
**4-Way Test:** Bryan Gillespie  
**Fine Master:** David North

## BRYAN'S BRAG



I had the opportunity to fill in for President Steve Murray while he is spending time with his granddaughter

(see page 3). I want to take a moment to say thank you to VVUHSD



Superintendent Carl Coles for taking time out of his busy schedule to speak to us about their wonderful programs and incentives.

The Super Build is back! Rotarians from around the District will gather on May 4th down in Tecate, Mexico and spend 7-8 hours working together to build a house for a blessed family. We travel over the border by bus and have a great time, no matter your skill level. Please see me for more information.

Bill Edwards and Arsalee Morales are still looking for 3 Rotarians who are not on the Board to help with a Fundraising Committee. We are looking for some fresh and unique ideas to raise money for the Club's many programs we support. Please see Bill if you can serve.

Movie Night at the Hove's is back! See page 4 for more information.

*Bryan*

## S.T.A.R. STUDENTS

This week the Club honored three S.T.A.R. Students from Helendale Elementary. **Bill Edwards** hosted the ceremony and featured **Corrine Mora** from Congressman Obernolte's office and **Kim Mesen** from Supervisor Cook's office to hand out certificates.



First to be awarded was **Max Sanchez**. His attitude towards school is much improved and is a more engaged student. He has also improved in 4 core subjects and went up a full grade in Reading Diagnostics.

Next we met **Ezekiel Munroe**, who has developed a motivation to learn. Once hesitant to answer questions, is now fully engaged in the lessons. This



has helped him be a better student and his grades reflect it.



Finally, we were introduced to **Andrew Henson** who is a new student to Helendale Elementary. He has made a significant growth in his behavior, and is now demonstrating leadership qualities in the classroom and in his attitude.

Congratulations to all of our S.T.A.R. Students!



**CREATE HOPE in the WORLD**

## Big Blue Poker Chip



Chris Ackerman had the chance to pick the Blue Poker Chip, and did it! Chris left the meeting \$450 richer and happier! We will start anew next week with 14 chips and \$200 for the one lucky Rotarian who has their ticket drawn.

## Fine Session



David North was our Fine Master this week and began by giving a hard fine to President Steve Murray in the amount of \$50 with the arrival of his new granddaughter Madelyn Bailey Sprague. She was born on April 21st, 6lbs, 1oz., 18.5". Baby and mom are doing wonderful.

Next Mike Page was penalized \$20 for this weekend's St. Mary Gala and Chris Ackerman was fined \$40 for getting hired in a major motion picture this past weekend as a Demolition Derby announcer.

## Raffle

David North donated a bottle of wine that will be enjoyed by guest Janette Sanchez. Bill Edwards gave away combo packs of a candle and espresso martini kit that will be enjoyed by Janette and Arsalee Morales.

## Rotary Guests

This week we welcomed family members and school officials who attended to support the S.T.A.R. Students that included Bryce Carlson, Maira Paez, Dawna Panagictpoulous, Kate Henson, Janette Sanchez, Socorro Chavez, and Josh Behnke.

From the office of Congressman Jay Obernolte we greeted



Corrine Mora and from San Bernardino County Supervisor, we welcomed Kim Mesen.

Finally, Terry Fitch from Legal Shield attended the meeting as a guest of Arsalee Morales.

## OBJECT OF ROTARY

The Object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

### FIRST:

The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;

### SECOND:

High ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society;

### THIRD:

The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business, and community life;

### FOURTH:

The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

## The Polio Pig

Collected this week: \$23.00

Collected to Date: \$20,432.33

Total equals: 101,843 Doses!

One dollar equals 2 Doses of Vaccine!  
\$500 pays for a Polio Clinic!





**VICTORVILLE ROTARY CLUB OFFICERS**

**Board of Directors**

- President 2023-2024 .....Steve Murray
- President 2024-2025 .....Bryan Gillespie
- President 2025-2027 ..... Bill Edwards
- President 2027 - 2028 ..... **Please be Interviewed**
- Immediate Past President/Special Projects..... Arsalee Morales
- Treasurer/Scholarships ..... David North
- Executive Secretary/Foundation/Grants ..... Margaret Cooker
- Club Service/Membership .....Bryan Gillespie
- Community Service/Speech Contests ..... Mike Johnson
- International Service..... Ben Tafoya
- Youth Service/RYLA & TLC/Ethics Essay..... Ron Boyd
- Vocational Service ..... Bill Edwards

**Members-at-Large:** Rob Kilpatrick & Bob Basen

**Positions & Committee Chairs**

- BOD Secretary ..... Pam Murray
- Billing Officer .....Esther Mears
- Dan Stover Music Contest..... Bill Edwards
- Flowers and Gifts ..... Linda Hove
- Foundation & Grants ..... Margaret Cooker
- Fundraising..... Arsalee Morales
- Joshua Tree Editor ..... Chris Ackerman
- Membership..... Bryan Gillespie
- Programs ..... Mike Page
- Publicity/Public Relations ..... Rob Kilpatrick
- Public Safety..... Rick Bessinger, Teresa DeAtley,  
and John Wickum
- Sergeant At Arms.....Steve Murray
- Scholarships..... David North
- S.T.A.R. Students .....Maureen Mills and Michal Krause

**The Victorville Rotary Club meets every Tuesday for fellowship at 11:30 a.m. and meeting at 12:00 noon at the Bear Valley Country Club, 13229 Spring Valley Parkway, Victorville**

**Make-up Days and Locations**

- MONDAY:** San Bernardino East, Imperial Palace, noon
- TUESDAY:** Rancho Cucamonga Sunrise, 7:15 a.m.  
Empire Lakes Golf Course  
Rancho Cucamonga, 12:00 p.m., Etiwanda Gardens
- WEDNESDAY:** San Bernardino Crossroads, Hilton, noon,  
Barstow, DiNapoli's Firehouse, 1358 E Main St,  
Barstow, CA
- THURSDAY:** Apple Valley, Rusty Bull, 13685 John Glenn Rd, Apple  
Valley, Noon. Ontario, 12:15 p.m., Doubletree Hotel  
San Bernardino, Denny's at I-15, 7 a.m.  
Redlands, Masonic Temple, noon
- FRIDAY:** San Bernardino North, Elks Lodge, 12:05 p.m.

**Calendar Dates**

- April 13:** **Board of Directors Meeting**  
5:00pm Fellowship  
5:30 pm Board Meeting  
Location: Robar Enterprises  
17671 Bear Valley Road, Hesperia, CA
- July 13:** **Movie Night at the Hove's**  
Movie: August Rush (2007) PG-13  
More information soon

**Rotary**  
Club of Victorville, CA



**Upcoming Programs**

- April 30:** **5th Tuesday Evening Meeting**  
**Pancho Villa's Restaurant**  
**Victorville Restaurant Row**  
**5:30pm**
- May 7:** Robert Lovingood/Mike Thrapp, ICR  
Staffing Services, **TOPIC "Wage, Hour  
and Employment Litigation Trends"**  
(Page)
- May 14:** Chris Lamoreaux, Owner, Coldwell  
Banker Home Source, **TOPIC "Real  
Estate Commission Settlement -  
Changes to Commissions: What Does  
It Really Mean?"** (Page)

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