

# The Joshua Tree

**August 20, 2024**

## CHAMPIONING ECONOMIC GROWTH

Congressman **Jay Obernolte** has emerged as a prominent figure in the U.S. House of Representatives, addressing critical issues ranging from economic development to technological advancement. Recently, Obernolte has been vocal about a significant project poised to bring substantial economic benefits to the High Desert region, particularly through the BNSF Railroad initiative. Additionally, he has expressed concerns over the nation's budgetary challenges, inflation, and the housing market, while also spearheading important work as the Chairman of a bipartisan House Task Force on Artificial Intelligence (AI).



The BNSF Railroad project represents a significant investment in the region's economic future. By enhancing the efficiency of freight transport, the project aims to alleviate congestion at the major ports and streamline the movement of goods. For the High Desert, this translates into job creation, economic growth, and improved local infrastructure, all of which are crucial for sustaining the region's development.

One of Obernolte's most notable contributions recently has been his advocacy for the BNSF Railroad project. This massive infrastructure endeavor is expected to create over 20,000 jobs across the High Desert communities, including Barstow. The project is not only a boon for local employment but also a strategic move to bolster the logistics and transportation networks connecting the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach to the interior of California and beyond.

Despite the promising prospects of the BNSF Railroad project, Obernolte has not shied away from addressing more pressing national issues, particularly concerning the federal budget. He has voiced strong concerns about the U.S. government's fiscal management, highlighting that the national debt has surged past \$35 trillion. This staggering figure underscores the challenges Congress faces in managing the nation's finances and ensuring long-term economic stability.

Obernolte has criticized Congress's handling of the budget, suggesting that the current approach is inadequate for addressing the mounting debt. He emphasizes the need for a more responsible and strategic fiscal policy to prevent exacerbating the debt crisis and to ensure that economic growth can be sustained without further jeopardizing financial stability.

In his discussions on economic issues, Obernolte has also touched upon the impact of wages and inflation on local communities. Inflation continues to strain households, eroding purchasing power and making everyday expenses more burdensome. Obernolte has

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**This Week's Functionaries**

<b>Invocation:</b>	<b>Bill Edwards</b>
<b>Flag Salute:</b>	<b>Arsalee Morales</b>
<b>4-Way Test:</b>	<b>Mike Johnson</b>
<b>Fine Master:</b>	<b>Ryan McEachron</b>



## GILLESPIE'S GAB

Thank you to  
Congressman Jay  
Obernolte for coming  
to our meeting today  
and speaking to your

constituents.

Thank you for all  
you are doing for  
us on Capital Hill.

We will have a  
Rotary Fireside

meeting on September 26th at the Rotary  
Gardens, located at the Greater High  
Desert Chamber Apple Valley office. Our  
District Governor, Michael Driebe will be in  
attendance. Please make your plans to join  
us.

TLC is coming up December 6th –  
8th. Please sign up to volunteer for this  
incredible weekend where many have their  
"Rotary Moment".

We now have a date for our Teacher Mini  
Grant event. Please make sure you join is  
on November 5th for this incredible lunch  
meeting. We are still looking for Rotarians  
to donate monies towards the grants for  
our area teachers.

Opportunities are also available to  
sponsor a shelter with our friends at Shelter  
Box. You can purchase a full shelter box  
package for \$1,000, a set of solar lights for  
\$30 plus different price points in between.  
See Margaret Cooker for more information.

Bryan



## Obernolte

*Continued from page 1*

pointed out the distinction between inflation and price gouging, arguing that while inflation is a broad economic issue, price gouging represents unethical business practices that exacerbate financial hardship for consumers.

Moreover, Obernolte has highlighted the troubling rise in housing prices, attributing it to a shortage of new construction. He has noted that the cost of building homes has doubled in recent years, contributing to the affordability crisis. The lack of sufficient housing supply is driving up prices, making homeownership increasingly out of reach for many families. Obernolte advocates for policies that encourage the construction of new homes and alleviate regulatory barriers that contribute to high building costs.

In addition to his focus on economic and fiscal issues, Obernolte has been appointed Chairman of a bipartisan House Task Force on AI. This role places him at the forefront of efforts to ensure that the United States remains a leader in AI innovation while also addressing the ethical and security challenges associated with the technology.

The task force's objectives include balancing the benefits of AI against potential risks and safeguarding against malicious uses of the technology. Obernolte views AI as one of the most transformative tools available, with the potential to revolutionize industries and improve lives. However, he also recognizes the need for robust safeguards to address emerging threats and ensure that AI advancements are used responsibly.

Obernolte's recent participation in the 13th hearing of the task force underscores his commitment to these goals. In discussions about AI and productivity, he has noted a troubling decline in work productivity over the past six years, which he attributes in part to technological disruptions. His work aims to harness the positive potential of AI while mitigating its risks to foster a thriving and secure digital future.

Congressman Jay Obernolte stands out for his proactive approach to a range of pressing issues. From championing the BNSF Railroad project, which promises substantial local job creation, to addressing critical national budget concerns, inflation, and the housing market crisis, Obernolte's work reflects a commitment to both immediate and long-term economic stability.



# THE MAGIC OF ROTARY

## Big Blue Poker Chip



*Jon Hove had a chance to pick the Blue Poker Chip, but picked Green and saved the chance for another Rotarian next week. We will continue next week with 13 chips and \$225 for the one lucky Rotarian who has their ticket drawn..*

## Raffle

**Jon & Linda Hove** were the big winners in this week's raffle. Between the two of them, they left the meeting with a Bob's Tire duffle bag from **Jim Murray**, two Victor Valley Transit



drawstring bags plus a flat water bottle from **Chris Ackerman**, A Flagstar water bottle from **Mike Johnson**, and a book, "The Revolutionary Ketamine" from **Bill Edwards**.

One of our guests this week also won a book from Bill, and both **Michael Krause** and **Angel Espino** left with a Flagstar goodie pack from **Mike Johnson**.

A bottle of wine from **Bo Goulet** will be enjoyed by **Jim Murray** and another bottle from **David North** went home with **Bruce Ebmeyer**. Finally, **Arsalee Morales** ended the raffle with a Red Rocks RV backpack from **Russ Stringham**.

## Fine Session

**Ryan McEachron** was our Fine Master and simply issued all Rotarians in the room a \$5 fine because normally, this many does not show up for a regular meeting.

Finally, Ryan fined **Russ Stringham** \$20 because Ryan's sister ran into Russ in Scottsdale, AZ and sent Ryan a photo of them together!

## Rotary Guests

This week we welcomed **Tisha Lopez**, Victor Valley Transit Marketing Assistant, who was invited to attend by **Chris Ackerman**, and **Chris Nunez** from the College Foundation joined us as a guest of **Kirsten Acosta**.

**Jon Hove** brought more than a table of guests including his wife **Linda Hove** and son **Harrison Hove** plus **Lori Cliftz**, **Chris Ware**, **Rishawl Schells**, **Bahaa Mowcadam**, **Amanda Gilchrist**, **Rosa Rivera**, **George Tolson**, **Biaon Ovellette**, **Justin VanDerWoude**, and **Janeen Oliver**.

**Marc Bracco** from the Sheriff's Department joined us once again as a guest of **Randy German** and **Mike Johnson** invited **Bruce Ebmeyer**, plus **Bryan Spaeth** and Pastor **Rick Stonestreet** from Mountain View Baptist Church.



President **Bryan Gillespie** brought **Stefanie Montoya** and **Martin Vutruben**, both from Options for Youth. **Darron Poulsen** invited **Latif Lrxakn**, **David**

**Wylie**, and **Kristi Casteel** from the VVWRA.

Spouses joined us as well including **Leslie Murray** who attended with **Jim Murray** and **Linda Scott** who sat with husband **Bill Scott**.

We also had a Rotarian guest in the form of **Dr. Derek King** and our speaker Congressman **Jay Obornolte** brought representative **Corrine Mora** to the luncheon.

Our only Stand-in this week was **Penny Edmiston** for **Maureen Mills**.

## The Polio Pig

**Collected this week: \$43.00**

*Polio Pig: \$35.00 + Bruce Ebmeyer: \$3.00  
+ Jon Hove (Chip): \$5.00 = \$43.00*

**Collected to Date: \$20,656.83**

**Total equals: 102,292 Doses!**

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



## VICTORVILLE ROTARY CLUB OFFICERS

### Board of Directors

President 2024-2025 .....	Bryan Gillespie
President 2025-2027 .....	Bill Edwards
President 2027 - 2028 .....	<b>Please be Interviewed</b>
Immediate Past President .....	Steve Murray
Executive Secretary/Foundation/Grants .....	Margaret Cooker
Treasurer/Scholarships .....	David North
Youth Services/Ethics Essay .....	Ron Boyd
Club Service & Membership .....	Bill Edwards
Community Service/Speech Contests .....	Mike Johnson
Vocational Service .....	<b>Please Volunteer</b>
International Service .....	Ben Tafoya
Member At Large, Young Leaders Contact .....	Arsalee Morales
Member At Large, Special Projects .....	Rob Kilpatrick

**Members-at-Large:** Bob Basen, Darron Poulsen, Angel Espino

### Positions & Committee Chairs

BOD/PP Secretary .....	Pam Murray
Special Billing .....	<b>TBD</b>
Public Service Awards .....	<b>Please Volunteer</b>
Teacher Mini-Grants .....	Angel Espino
Dan Stover Music Contest .....	Angel Espino
Joshua Tree Editor .....	Chris Ackerman
Read B4K .....	<b>Please Volunteer</b>
Foundation & Grants .....	Margaret Cooker
Food Baskets .....	<b>Please Volunteer</b>
Interact (Junior Rotary) .....	<b>Please Volunteer</b>
Programs .....	Mike Page
Fundraising .....	Stefanie Montoya
S.T.A.R. Students .....	Angel Espino
Club Learning Facilitator .....	<b>Please Volunteer</b>

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

<b>MONDAY:</b>	San Bernardino East, Imperial Palace, noon
<b>TUESDAY:</b>	Rancho Cucamonga Sunrise, 7:15 a.m. Empire Lakes Golf Course Rancho Cucamonga, 12:00 p.m., Etiwanda Gardens
<b>WEDNESDAY:</b>	San Bernardino Crossroads, Hilton, noon, Barstow, DiNapoli's Firehouse, 1358 E Main St, Barstow, CA
<b>THURSDAY:</b>	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
<b>FRIDAY:</b>	San Bernardino North, Elks Lodge, 12:05 p.m.

## Calendar Dates

**Aug 19: Board of Directors Meeting**  
5:00pm Fellowship  
5:30pm Board Meeting  
Location: Robar Enterprises  
17671 Bear Valley Road, Hesperia, CA

**HIGH DESERT VETERANS APPRECIATION BBQ**  
NOV 9TH 2024  
11AM-3PM  
**LOCATION:**   
SINGH PERFORMING ART CENTER  
22311 Bear Valley Rd, Apple Valley, CA 92308  
**TODAY, WE CELEBRATE YOU. LUNCH IS FREE FOR VETERANS.**

**FOOD PROVIDED BY** **CLASSIC CAR SHOW** **LIVE MUSIC**

**IN PARTNERSHIP WITH**

**Rotary** **Rotary**

Apple Valley, CA      Town of Apple Valley      Victorville, CA

**EVENT PROUDLY SPONSORED BY:**

## Upcoming Programs

**Aug 27:** Bo Goulet, Real Estate Broker **TOPIC**  
"Real Estate in Today's Political Climate" (Page)

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