



The Joshua Tree

January 6, 2026

A LOOK INSIDE HIGH DESERT PACE

Speaking at Rotary this week were **Justin Atkins**, Nurse Practitioner and Primary Care Provider, and **Andrea Vega**, Dietary Manager and Registered Dietitian, who offered a powerful and eye-opening look at the growing challenges facing seniors in the High Desert. They shared that many local hospitals are operating beyond capacity, often leaving seniors who have already been admitted waiting in hallways due to a lack of available rooms. These conditions, combined with long stays in hospitals and nursing homes, can shorten life expectancy and diminish quality of life, highlighting the urgent need for a better model of care for our region's aging population.



Justin and Andrea explained that seniors in the Victor Valley are struggling within a fragmented healthcare system where providers are stretched thin. In many traditional practices, doctors manage caseloads of up to 2,000 patients, limiting the time and attention each



individual receives. At High Desert PACE, that model is turned upside down, primary care providers are limited to just 100 patients, allowing for more personalized care, daily monitoring, and early intervention to prevent medical emergencies before they occur.

PACE, standing for Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly, is built on a simple but powerful philosophy: seniors are happiest and healthiest when they can remain in their own homes and communities. Located at 11833 Amethyst Road, High Desert PACE serves 20 zip codes across the High Desert, including communities throughout Victorville, Apple Valley, Hesperia, Barstow, and surrounding areas. The program brings medical, social, nutritional, rehabilitation, and supportive services together under one centralized hub designed specifically for seniors.

Eligibility for the program includes being age 55 or older, living within the service area, meeting skilled nursing level of care requirements, and being able to live safely in the community. Once enrolled, participants receive all of their medical care exclusively through High Desert PACE, with comprehensive coverage that includes Medicare and Medicaid services and any additional care deemed medically necessary. Importantly, participants face no deductibles, copays, or out-of-pocket costs, removing financial barriers to receiving quality care.

This Week's Functionaries

- Invocation:** Chris Ackerman
Flag Salute: Bryan Gillespie
4-Way Test: Steve Murray
Fine Master: Ryan McEachron

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MURRAY'S MINUTE



It was a pleasure to host both Justin Adkins and Andrea Vega from High

Desert PACE this week with an engaging presentation!



Judging by the interaction with those in attendance, I'd say a return visit would be welcomed by the Club!

As I mentioned at the meeting, if you pay your dues by credit card, please contact Pam or myself.

We have begun a 50/50 drawing that we are very excited about. We plan to raise some money for the Club as well as reward one lucky person. Tickets are \$5 each or five for \$20. We will draw the winning ticket on June 30th! Who will be the lucky one this year?

Darron and Donna Poulsen are opening their home again this year for our annual Super Bowl Party! This is a free event and the Club will provide hamburgers and hot dogs, but please RSVP so we have enough food for all. Bring an appetizer or dessert. Please note this is a BYOB event.

Finally, let me be the 100th person to wish you a "Happy New Year"!

Steve

High Desert PACE...

Continued from page one

Care at High Desert PACE is delivered through a coordinated interdisciplinary team that includes doctors, nurses, social workers, therapists, and dietitians who collaborate daily to develop and adjust individualized care plans. Nutrition plays a key role, with medical nutrition therapy for chronic conditions such as diabetes and hypertension, nutritious hot lunches served daily at the center, and education for families to support healthy habits at home.

Transportation was also highlighted as a critical component of the program. High Desert PACE provides door-to-door, wheelchair-accessible transportation to the center and to medical appointments, ensuring seniors can access care reliably while giving families peace of mind. As shared with Rotary, the PACE model closely aligns with the Rotary Four-Way Test by offering transparent, evidence-based care, ensuring fairness and equal access, fostering goodwill through connection and community, and delivering meaningful benefits for seniors, families, and the Victor Valley as a whole.

For more information about High Desert PACE and its services, visit www.highdesertpace.org

JOIN US FOR
SUPER BOWL
Party

Let's eat, cheer, and get ready for the big game together!

February 8 | at 2:30pm
Darron & Donna Poulsen 18841 Nowata Rd, Apple Valley, CA 92308
rsvp 760-953-1236
PLEASE BRING APPETIZER OR DESSERT BYOB

50/50
RAFFLE
fundraiser

JUNE 30, 2026

All proceeds to benefit the projects of The Rotary Club of Victorville

1 TICKET = \$5
5 TICKETS = \$20

Tickets will be sold at the Rotary Meetings.

Winner will be announced on June 30, 2026

UNITE FOR GOOD

Big Blue Poker Chip



Jim Murray had the chance to draw the Blue Chip but picked green and saved the chance for another. We'll continue next week with 8 chips and \$350 for the lucky Rotarian who can draw the Blue Chip.

Rotary Guests

This week our only Stand-in was **Alyy Martinez** for **Angel Espino**. Let's bring more guests everyone!

Fine Session

Ryan McEachron was our Fine Master and since High Desert PACE takes people 55 and over, all attendees in that age bracket received a \$10 fine. Those receiving fines included **Dr. Derek King, Kirsten Acosta, Chris Ackerman, Darron Poulsen, Bob Basen, Brad Letner, Jim Murray, Mike Page, Steve Murray, Rob Kilpatrick, Bill Scott, Craig Garrick** and even Ryan himself!

The only ones escaping fine free for being under 55 were **Bryan Gillespie** and **Alyy Martinez**!



We love to see Rotarians networking after a meeting concludes!

Raffle

It was a battle this week on who would leave with more raffle prizes between **Rob Kilpatrick** and **Jim Murray**!

Both Rob and Jim walked away with sets of VVTA eyeglass cleaners and highlighter pens from **Chris Ackerman**, but Rob also won a migraine relief mask from **Steve Murray**.



Jim took the lead and the win by taking home a goodie bag AND Wilson Creek Wine, both donated by High Desert PACE!

The only other winner was **Ryan McEachron** who left with a sleeve of golf balls from Jim.

Club Assembly



This week we held a Club Assembly, led by **Ryan McEachron** and the results were as follows:

Item #1: **Steve Murray** as Rotary President through June 30, 2026. A

motion was made by **Mike Page** and seconded by **Bill Scott**.

Item #2: Elect **Brad Letner** as Rotary President for the 2026/2027 year. A motion was made by **Bob Basen** and seconded by **Bryan Gillespie**.

Both items passed with unanimous approval by the membership in attendance. Congrats Steve and Brad!

The Polio Pig

Collected this week: \$22.00

Collected to Date: \$21,737.68

Total equals: 104,454 Doses!

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



VICTORVILLE ROTARY CLUB OFFICERS

Board of Directors

President 2025-2026	Steve Murray
President 2026 - 2027	Brad Letner
Immediate Past President/Club Service	Bryan Gillespie
Executive Secretary/Grants	Steve and Pam Murray
Treasurer	Darron Poulsen
Youth Services/Ethics Essay	Please Volunteer
Foundation.....	Darron Poulsen
Club Service & Membership	Bryan Gillespie
International Service.....	Ben Tafoya
Youth Service	Ryan McEachron
Community Service	Arsalee Morales
Vocational Service	Angel Espino

Members-at-Large: Bob Basen, Ron Boyd, Steve Murray, Ron Boyd, Rob Kilpatrick

Positions & Committee Chairs

BOD/PP Secretary.....	Pam Murray
Scholarships	Please Volunteer
Special Billing	Esther Mears (TBD)
Public Service Awards	Please Volunteer
Teacher Mini-Grants	Angel Espino
Special Projects.....	Rob Kilpatrick
Dan Stover Music Contest.....	Angel Espino
Joshua Tree Editor	Chris Ackerman
Read B4K	Brad Letner
Grants.....	Please Volunteer
Food Baskets.....	Ben Tafoya
Interact (Junior Rotary).....	Please Volunteer
Programs	Mike Page
Fundraising	Stefanie Montoya
S.T.A.R. Students	Angel Espino
Club Learning Facilitator.....	Please Volunteer

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

- Jan 13** **Board of Directors Meeting**
5:30pm Board Meeting
ISU ARMAC Insurance Agency
17177 Yuma St., Victorville, CA 92395
- May 2** **Rotary Golf Tournament**
Apple Valley Golf Course
\$100 per Player • \$400 per Foursome

Rotary



Club of Victorville, CA

Upcoming Programs

- Jan 13:** **4-Way Speech Contest** (Espino)
- Jan 20:** **OPEN**
- Jan 27:** **Dan Stover Music Competition**
(Espino)



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