



The Joshua Tree

February 3, 2026

VVC BLOODHOUNDS: THE NOSE KNOWS

Club members welcomed a truly memorable guest speaker from Victor Valley College, **Dr. Lisa Harvey**, who arrived with her five-year-old Bloodhound partner, Ellie. Dr. Harvey, who has served



the college for 28 years, captivated the room with a presentation that blended science, law enforcement, genetics, and medicine, all centered around the extraordinary capabilities of a Bloodhound's nose.

Bloodhounds are uniquely engineered for scent work. With approximately 230 million scent receptors, compared to about 5 million in humans, their sense of smell is almost beyond comprehension. Their loose, wrinkled skin helps trap scent particles, while their long ears sweep odors upward toward their nose as they move. These physical traits, combined with their intense focus, allow



Bloodhounds to follow human scent trails that can be four or more years old. In fact, the record for a Bloodhound track exceeds 130 miles.

This scientific reality is what makes

Bloodhounds invaluable in police investigations. They are able to isolate and trail a specific individual's scent over incredible distances and timeframes, even in challenging environments. But as Dr. Harvey shared, the most exciting developments are now happening beyond traditional search-and-rescue work.

Medical research is revealing how dogs are being trained to detect diseases through changes in a person's scent profile. Dogs have demonstrated the ability to detect certain cancers, including lung and breast cancer, with reported accuracy rates as high as 97%. Other dogs are trained as diabetes alert dogs, warning owners when blood sugar levels become dangerously high or low. Some are even capable of alerting individuals before the onset of an epileptic seizure. Disease, medication, and genetic conditions can subtly alter a person's VOC signature, and dogs can detect those changes long before humans or machines can.

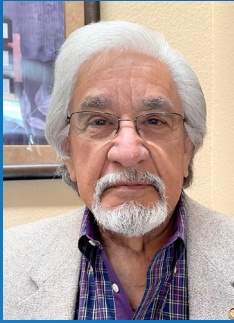
This Week's Functionaries

Invocation: Chris Ackerman

Flag Salute: Brad Letner

4-Way Test: Jim Cox

Fine Master: Ryan McEachron



TAFOYA TALKS

Thank you to Dr. Lisa Harvey and Ellie the bloodhound for stopping by and

sharing their incredible study as well as all that Bloodhounds



do in regard to both criminal investigations but in the medical field as well. Very interesting information.

The Super Bowl Party is this Sunday! Darron Poulsen still has available squares on the \$1 opportunity available. The \$5 sheet is filled up but \$10 is missing from the envelope. Darron shared that there will be more opportunities available Sunday. This is your last chance to sign up. We need a headcount so we know the amount of hamburgers, hot dogs, water and soda to purchase. Bring an appetizer or dessert for others to enjoy! Please remember this is a BYOB event.

Our 50/50 jar is growing! Tickets are \$5 each or five for \$20. We will draw the winning ticket on June 30th! Half of the money will go to one lucky person, while the other half will go into our account to give Brad Letner the financial advantage to begin his presidency. Get your tickets now! See the flyer on page 3.

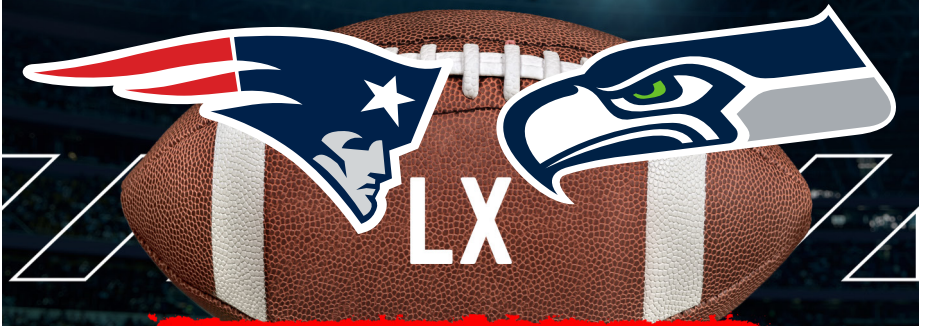
Finally, 100% is being requested for next weeks program, the BS Show!

Ben Tafoya

LAST CHANCE!

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

UNITE FOR GOOD

Big Blue Poker Chip



Ryan McEachron had the chance to draw the Blue Chip and did it, taking home \$425!!

We'll start again next week with 14 chips and \$200 for the lucky Rotarian who can draw the Blue Chip.

Raffle



This week, **Chris Ackerman** donated two goodie bags of new VVTA swag that will be enjoyed by **Ben Tafoya** and **Ryan McEachron**. Since Ryan won one last week he gave it to **Dr. Lisa Harvey's** grandson. Due to his kind act, Ryan then won again, taking home a candle from **Don Lager!**

Fine Session

Ryan McEachron was our Fine Master and penalized **Brad Poiriez** \$10 since he hasn't been seen for a while and **Keith Metzler** was charged the same amount, just "because". **Don Lager** was fined \$10 for his upcoming travels to "King of the Hammers" and Mexico.

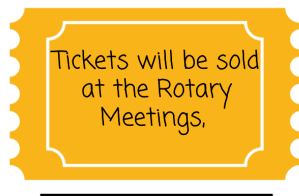
Rotary Guests

Our only Stand-in was **Alyy Martinez** for **Angel Espino**.

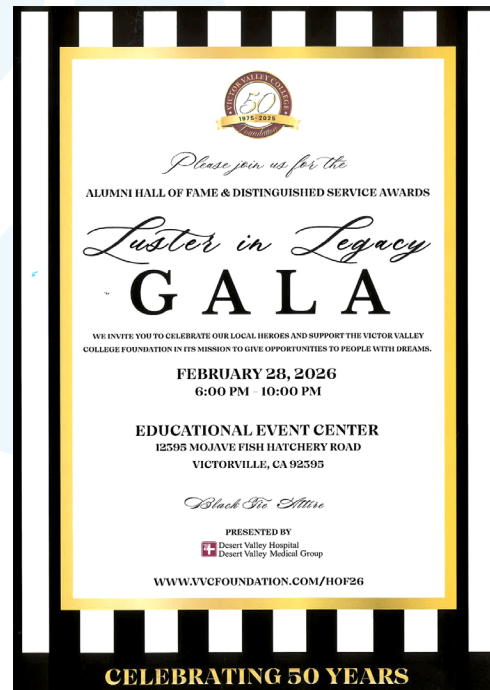
Spoon of Exception



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



Winner will be announced on June 30, 2026



Kirsten Acosta had her first week with the Spoon and reminded Rotarians that the annual VVC Hall of Fame Gala will be taking place on February 28th. One of the honorees will be former Club Rotarian **Marie Langley!**

She also gave out copies of the latest issue of "Foundation 411", her team's magazine with not only VVC news, but also information on the Foundation's fundraising efforts.

Finally, Kirsten spoke about the President's Circle through the Foundation. Membership includes quarterly luncheons with fine dining from the College's Restaurant Management students and much more.



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

- Feb 10** **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

Upcoming Programs

- Feb 10:** **The Victorville Rotary BS Show**
(The Brad & Steve Show)
100% Membership Attendance Requested
- Feb 17:** Bruce Ebmeyer, Ebmeyer Charter Services (Page)
- Feb 24:** **OPEN**
- Mar 3:** **OPEN**
- Mar 10:** **4-Way Speech Competition - Area**
(Espino)

The Polio Pig

Collected this week: \$6.00

Collected to Date: \$21,764.68

Total equals: 104,508 Doses!

One dollar equals 2 Doses of Vaccine!

\$500 pays for a Polio Clinic!

Design & Layout By



Printed By

