

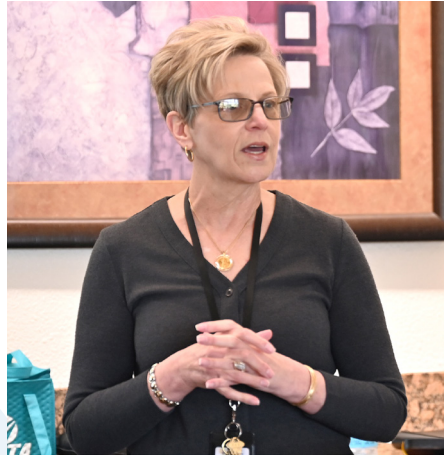


The Joshua Tree

March 3, 2026

MAKE 10 AND SPEND 9 AT THE VESD

The Rotary Club of Victorville recently welcomed **Lori Clark**, Superintendent of the Victor Elementary School District (VESD), who provided members with an informative and encouraging "State of the District" presentation. Clark has dedicated 33 years of service to VESD.



Victor Elementary School District serves a significant portion of the High Desert community, operating 18 schools serving Transitional Kindergarten through 6th grade and educating 11,664 students. Clark noted that enrollment is down by about 200 students this year, reflecting trends being seen across many districts in California. Supporting those students is a large and dedicated team of 1,917 employees working across classrooms, campuses, and district operations. Clark also shared that approximately 86% of VESD students are classified as Socioeconomically Disadvantaged (SES), highlighting the importance of strong support systems and resources for families throughout the district.

One challenge districts across the state are facing is the Non-Stability Rate, which measures student mobility and

the frequency of students transferring in and out of schools during the academic year. Clark explained that the statewide rate is 8.5%, San Bernardino County is 12.1%, while VESD currently stands at 17.85%, presenting unique challenges when it comes to maintaining continuity in student learning.

Clark also provided a look into the district's financial management. VESD operates on an annual budget of approximately \$256 million, with 92.3% of funding coming from the State of California and 4.7% from federal sources. The district follows a disciplined financial philosophy: "If we make 10, we spend 9." Clark emphasized that one-time funding is never used for ongoing staffing costs, but instead reserved for strategic projects and improvements. The district maintains strong financial oversight through transparent communication, board training, an annual board approval process, the LCAP Budget Advisory Committee, and ongoing staff education meetings to ensure everyone understands how resources are used.

A major focus of Clark's presentation centered on literacy and student achievement. VESD has made a significant investment in training educators through its Five Pillars of Literacy initiative, which includes Phonemic Awareness, Phonics, Fluency, Vocabulary, and Comprehension. In Tier 1 training, teachers participate in an intensive 87-hour program, and Clark proudly reported that all 530 teachers and all 18 principals have

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This Week's Functionaries

Invocation: Chris Ackerman

Flag Salute: Angel Espino

4-Way Test: Maureen Mills

Fine Master: Ryan McEachron



MURRAY'S MINUTE

Thank you to Lori Clark for stopping by this week and giving us an update

on the Victor Elementary School District, along with not only their challenges,

but successes as well. Let's not wait another four years to have you back.

Our big 50/50 drawing is currently at \$430, with half going to one lucky winner. Let's grow that pot of money and give Brad Letner a big financial push to start his presidency in July.

This month's Board Meeting will be rescheduled. Please stay tuned for additional information.

Thank you to Rob Kilpatrick for your wonderful presentation last week on the history of the Club. If you have photos or content to add, please contact Rob.

Thank you as well to Kirsten Acosta for providing Pam and I with passes for the VVC Hall of Fame Gala last weekend. It was a fantastic event.

We will be doing a join golf tournament with the Apple Valley Club on May 2, 2026. Please provide a foursome or become a sponsor!

Steve



Lori Clark

Continued from page 1

completed the training. By conducting the program entirely in-house, the district was able to stretch its one-time funding further while maintaining high-quality professional development.

Following Tier 1, educators move into Tier 2 training, which consists of five additional hours working with a Literacy Coach, focusing on applied learning, classroom coaching, and instructional modeling. The investment in literacy training is already showing measurable results. According to Clark, English Language Arts (ELA) scores increased by 5.6 points, while mathematics scores improved by 3.5 points.

To better understand student progress, VESD conducted a more detailed growth comparison by analyzing sixth-grade students and comparing their performance to how they tested in the fourth grade. This allowed the district to measure growth over time and compare results with other regions in Southern California. The results were impressive. San Diego County recorded a growth rate of 2.92%, Los Angeles County saw 4.18%, Riverside County achieved 4.57%, and San Bernardino County reached 6.26%. Victor Elementary School District outperformed them all with a remarkable 10.71% growth rate.

Clark also highlighted the district's Alder Resiliency Program, which supports students' social-emotional well-being and helps equip them with the tools needed to overcome adversity and build confidence in both their academic and personal lives.

Throughout the presentation, Clark emphasized that the district's progress is the result of intentional planning, strong leadership, dedicated educators, and a clear commitment to students and families throughout the Victor Valley.

**UNITE
FOR
GOOD**

Big Blue Poker Chip



Ryan McEachron had a chance to draw the Blue Chip but picked green and saved it for another. We'll continue next week with 10 chips and \$300 for the lucky Rotarian who can draw the Blue Chip.

Fine Session

Ryan McEachron was our Fine Master and began by giving himself a \$10 penalty for promoting his wife Jody as a VESD school principal, and Mike Page had to pay the same for promoting his daughter taking part in the Alder Residency Program through the District. Finally Jim Cox was fined \$10 for driving his 66' Mustang to the meeting.

Raffle

This week, Steve Murray donated a Starbucks gift card that will be enjoyed by Ryan McEachron plus a bottle of wine, also donated by Steve. Dr. Derek King took home a Kobalt measuring tape, which was also donated by Steve.



Chris Ackerman gave away a VVTA swag bag that was won by Arsalee Morales and a VVTA blanket that will be used by Steve Murray.

Spoon of Exception

Jon Hove had the Spoon this week, which he won last week for a paltry \$50. Jon began by sharing that it is a year of more anniversaries! Last year, Hi Grade Materials celebrated 70 years in the ready-mix business, and this year they will celebrate 55 years in the steel distribution business and 50 years in steel fabrication.



Then came a history lesson. The first recorded version of a portable concrete mixer was a horse-drawn machine in 1904, while the first viable ready-mix concrete plant was established in 1913 in Baltimore. In 1982 the first computerized cement batching system was created and today, concrete can be designed to heal its own cracks using mixed-in bacteria!

HIGH DESERT ROTARY CLUBS OF APPLE VALLEY AND VICTORVILLE PRESENTS

ROTARY GOLF TOURNAMENT



PROCEEDS BENEFIT HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR SCHOLARSHIPS

LOCATION: APPLE VALLEY GOLF COURSE
MAY 2, 2026
SHOTGUN START AT 8:00 AM
FOURSUME • \$400
\$125 PER SINGLE

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
CONTACT PETER ALLAN
(760) 486-5686

BE A SPONSOR!

PLATINUM SPONSORSLP \$2,500
(2 Teams with team shirts, signage at event, company name used in everything for the event)

GOLD SPONSOR \$1,500
(1 Team with Team Shirts, signage at event)

BRONZE SPONSOR \$1,000
(1 Team, signage at event)

GREENS / TEES SPONSOR \$250 (Signage at event)

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO APPLE VALLEY ROTARY FOUNDATION,
TAX ID 95-2560398



50/50 RAFFLE fundraiser

JUNE 30, 2026

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

- Mar 2** **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

- Mar 10:** **4-Way Speech Competition - Area**
(Espino)
- Mar 17:** **Ethics Essay Contest** (Boyd)
Protective Service Awards (Morales)
- Mar 24:** Tony Winkel, Principal Hydrogeologist,
Mojave Water Agency, **Title: A Tale of
Two Damns and a (mostly) Dry River,
Part 1** (Page)
- April 7** Tony Winkel, Principal Hydrogeologist,
Mojave Water Agency, **Title: A Tale of
Two Damns and a (mostly) Dry River,
Part 2** (Page)

The Polio Pig

Collected this week: \$7.00

Collected to Date: \$21,780.68

Total equals: 104,540 Doses!

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

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