



# The Joshua Tree



March 10, 2026

## THE AREA COMPETITION IN WORDS & MUSIC



The Rotary Clubs of Victorville and Apple Valley recently came together to celebrate the talents and leadership of local students during the area competitions for the Rotary Four-Way Test Speech Contest and the Dan Stover Music Competition. The event showcased inspiring speeches and impressive musical performances from students across the High Desert, highlighting Rotary's ongoing commitment to supporting youth development, education, and community engagement.

In the Four-Way Test Speech Contest, **Keira Metzen** earned first place and will advance to the District Competition. Keira captivated both the judges and the audience with a thoughtful speech exploring the idea

of being an "influencer", not through social media popularity, but through everyday acts of kindness. She reminded listeners that influence can be as simple as offering a smile or sending an encouraging message, and that our words and actions carry weight. While people may not always agree, she emphasized that unity grows through goodwill and that every person has the power to use their influence to make a positive impact in daily life.

Finishing second and representing the Rotary Club of Apple Valley was **Annamarie Bell**, a senior at Granite Hills High School and a member of her school's Interact Club. In her speech titled "Unite for Good," Annmarie spoke about how Rotary and Interact members work together to serve their communities. She shared examples of volunteer efforts such as organizing clothing donations, supporting local events, and creating cards for seniors. Annmarie highlighted her club's current project of restoring a community garden, explaining how the effort reflects the principles of Rotary's Four-Way Test: turning ideas into action, working fairly together, building friendships through collaboration, and creating

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### This Week's Functionaries

Invocation:	Chris Ackerman
Flag Salute:	Brad Letner
4-Way Test:	Amber Tromble
Fine Master:	--

## MURRAY'S MINUTE



Thank you to all three of the students who took part in the area competitions for the 4-Way Speech and

Dan Stover Music! Our Club came out on top taking top honors in both categories. We are rooting for both Keira Metzen and Mariana Serrano take the win at the District Conference next month!



Our big 50/50 drawing is still growing, 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.

Please take part in our joint golf tournament with the Apple Valley Club on May 2, 2026. Now is the time to sign up your foursome or become an event sponsor!

Steve

# Words & Music

*Continued from page 1*

something beneficial for the entire community. Through the project, students from multiple clubs and backgrounds have united to improve their town and leave a lasting impact.

The meeting also featured the Dan Stover Music Competition, where young musicians demonstrated remarkable talent and dedication. Taking first place and advancing to the District level was **Mariana Serrano**, representing the Rotary Club of Victorville. Mariana delivered an outstanding performance of the Prelude from J.S. Bach's Second Cello Suite, impressing judges and audience members alike with her poise and technical mastery.

Finishing a close second was **Anmarie Bell**, representing the Rotary Club of Apple Valley, who performed the challenging guitar piece "Capriccio." The judges noted that the decision was a difficult one, reflecting the high level of musical ability displayed by both performers.

Both winners will now advance to compete at the Rotary District Conference, scheduled for April 24-26, 2026, at the Gaylord Pacific Resort & Convention Center in Chula Vista, California. There, Keira and Mariana will have the opportunity to compete against other top students from across the district for scholarships ranging from \$3,000 to \$5,000.

Judging the speech competition were **Brad Letner, Valeria Emick, and Nancy Keller**, while the music competition was judged by **Rick Simera, Tim and Natalie Garton, and Bob Wursure**.

The Rotary Clubs also extended special thanks to **Angel Espino**, who served as event chair and emcee, and **Alyy Martinez** for her hard work coordinating the event program.

The event served as a powerful reminder of Rotary's commitment to investing in young people. Through programs like the Four-Way Test Speech Contest and the Dan Stover Music Competition, Rotary continues to encourage students to develop their voices, share their talents, and become the next generation of leaders committed to serving their communities.

# UNITE FOR GOOD

## Big Blue Poker Chip



Steve Murray had the chance to draw the Blue Chip but picked green and saved it for another. We'll continue next week with 9 chips and \$325 for the lucky Rotarian who can draw the Blue Chip.

## Rotary Guests



Joining our guest judges this week (see cover story), we also welcomed family members and guests of the student competitors, **Janice Ortiz, Matt Metzen, Columbo Serrano,** plus **Joan and David Bell.**

From the Rotary Club of Apple Valley we were joined by President **Rick Bui, Amber Tromble, Peter Allan, Pat Orr,** and **Lindsay Fahnstock.**

Other guests included **Alyy Martinez** who attended with **Angel Espino,** and **Stefanie Montoya,** who was a stand-in for **Bryan Gillespie.**



## Raffle

This week, **Steve Murray** donated a Starbucks gift card and Bob's Tire koozie that will be enjoyed by **Amber Tromble** from the Apple Club, and Pam Murray donated a bottle of wine, that was awarded to **Pat Orr,** also from the Rotary Club of Apple Valley. Pat also won a magnetic flashlight from Steve.

**Chris Ackerman** gave away a VTA swag bag plus a VTA blanket and both prizes were won by **Steve Murray.**

## Spoon of Exception



**Jon Hove** had the Spoon again this week, and had some more fun facts to share about the cement and mining industry! Did you know that advanced quarrying uses diamond wire saws instead of traditional saws. Using the diamond wires can slice large blocks of stone with a very narrow cut, which minimizes waste.

Another fun fact is that cement is high in alkaline and when mixed with water and forms a substance with a Ph around 12 - 13, which is almost as caustic as bleach. This is the reason cement workers wear rubber boots and gloves when working!

Finally, water strengthens, not dries cement. When cement hardens, it is not drying out, it is going through a chemical process called the hydration process.

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



Rotary

Club of Victorville, CA

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If you are not receiving your newsletter, please contact Editor Chris Ackerman at  
signifydesigns@yahoo.com or 760-559-1686 to be added to the e-mail or mailing list.

**UNITE FOR GOOD**

## 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 .....	<b>Please Volunteer</b>
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.....	<b>Please Volunteer</b>
Special Billing .....	Esther Mears ( <b>TBD</b> )
Public Service Awards.....	<b>Please Volunteer</b>
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.....	<b>Please Volunteer</b>
Food Baskets.....	Ben Tafoya
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

- 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 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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