



# The Joshua Tree

April 7, 2026

## THE TALE OF THE 230-YEAR FLOOD

This week, the Rotary Club of Victorville welcomed **Tony Winkel**, Principal Hydrogeologist with the Mojave Water Agency, who delivered a fascinating and eye-opening presentation on the hydrology behind the devastating Wrightwood flooding that occurred on Christmas Eve 2025.

Winkel explained that the storm was not just significant, it was historic. Over a 24-hour period, Wrightwood received an astonishing 10.16 inches of rain, with 9.12 inches falling in just a 12-hour window. The storm began with lighter rainfall before transitioning into an intense, sustained downpour that overwhelmed the region. According to NOAA precipitation frequency data, the total rainfall equated to an 80-year storm event, but the intensity of rainfall within that 12-hour period elevated it to an estimated 230-year storm; a rare and extreme occurrence.

Compounding the situation was the impact of the recent Bridge Fire burn scar surrounding Wrightwood.



Burn scars significantly reduce the soil's ability to absorb water, creating near-immediate runoff conditions. Instead of soaking into the ground, rainwater rapidly flowed downhill, increasing both the speed and destructive power of the floodwaters.

The downstream impacts were severe. In the northern part of Phelan, a natural berm was breached, unleashing powerful floodwaters that ultimately destroyed the intersection at Colorado Road and

La Mesa Road. Infrastructure damage extended beyond roadways, as sections of a major water line were torn apart and carried downstream, some pieces discovered far from their original location.

Winkel's presentation not only highlighted the science behind the event but also underscored the importance of preparation, infrastructure planning, and community awareness in the face of increasingly unpredictable weather patterns.

Rotarians were encouraged to stay engaged and informed through Mojave Water Agency's public meetings and planning efforts, including the agency's ongoing Master Planning Effort, which aims to address long-term water management and resilience across the region.

As extreme weather events become more frequent and intense, presentations like this serve as a critical reminder: understanding our environment is key to protecting our communities.

### This Week's Functionaries

**Invocation:** Chris Ackerman

**Flag Salute:** Angel Espino

**4-Way Test:** Dr. Ron Boyd

**Fine Master:** Ryan McEachron

## MURRAY'S MINUTE



Thank you to Tony Winkel for making a return appearance, this time sharing

information on the Wrightwood Flood of 2025. We will have Tony back at another time to share more information from the Mojave Water Agency.



Thank you to Bob Basen for allowing us to use the Coldwell Banker Commercial boardroom for our Board meeting this week. What a fabulous place!

Our 50/50 was last reported to have grown to \$640! Let's keep it going and make sure Brad has some great funds to start his presidency with and you may have a chance to win some big money! Each ticket is \$5 or you can purchase 5 for \$20. Winner will be drawn on June 30, 2026.

District Assembly will be held on May 23rd at Granite Hills High School. If you will be on Brad's board, it is important for you to attend.

The Rotary Golf Tournament is only a few short weeks away and we still are in need of sponsors, raffle gifts and foursomes. Sign up today and we will see you on the links!

*Steve*

## The Ivy League Sweep!



The Rotary Club of Victorville is proud to share some truly extraordinary news about one of our own standout students, **Kyla McFarlin** from University Preparatory High School! Kyla, a recipient of the Rotary Four-Way Test Regional Award and winner of our Club Ethics Essay Competition, has accomplished something remarkable, an "Ivy League Sweep!"

She has been accepted into five Ivy League universities: Princeton, Yale, UPenn, Columbia, and Cornell, plus numerous other top-tier schools including Duke, Rice, USC, UCLA, and more.

Kyla's Achievements Include:

- 4.7 GPA & AP Scholar with Distinction
- Rotary Four-Way Test Regional Award Winner
- Rotary Club Ethics Essay Champion
- Ron Brown Scholar Finalist
- Coca-Cola Scholar Semifinalist
- QuestBridge Finalist
- Active leader in both local and state youth committees

Kyla's success is more than just academic excellence, it's a powerful reflection of the values of leadership, integrity, and service that Rotary strives to instill in our youth.

From the High Desert to the Ivy League, Kyla is a shining example of what's possible when talent meets opportunity and community support. Congratulations, Kyla, we can't wait to see the incredible impact you'll make in the world!

# UNITE FOR GOOD

## Big Blue Poker Chip



Jon Hove had the chance to draw the Blue Chip but picked green and saved it for another.

We'll continue next week with 5 chips and \$425 for the lucky Rotarian who can draw the Blue Chip.

## Scholarships



The Rotary Club of Victorville was proud to present a scholarship last week at the Greater High Desert Chamber of Commerce VMI "State of Education" event.

Congratulations to **Valeria Medina** of Victor Valley High School, a remarkable student with a bright future ahead! Valeria received this scholarship through the generous support of Rotary, recognizing her hard work, dedication, and commitment to making a difference.

Pictured here with incoming Rotary President **Brad Letner**, this moment represents what Rotary is all about; supporting education, empowering youth, and strengthening our community.

We can't wait to see all that Valeria accomplishes next!

## Raffle



This week **Chris Ackerman** won a couple of bottles of wine from **Jim Murray** and **Steve Murray**. Since he is not a drinker, he passed them onto **Courtney Jefferson**, who is a wine connoisseur. Chris himself donated a VTA bean bag phone holder that was taken home by President

Murray. Steve also gifted a Starbucks gift card that will be used by **Brad Letner**. Rounding out the Murray family, **Pam Murray** gave a candle that was won by **Ryan McEachron**.

## Spoon of Exception

**Jon Hove** gave up the Spoon and it went up for auction for the month of April. **Chris Ackerman** started by offering to buy the Spoon for \$50, but was immediately upped by **Rob Kilpatrick** and won for \$75. We will hear from Rob beginning next week.

## Fine Session

**Ryan McEachron** was back as our Fine Master and due to Rob Kilpatrick talking about a 1,000-year storm after the drought ends in 10 years, he was fined \$10 for having to engineer new roads and buildings! In addition, others in this grouping getting \$10-added to their bill included **Jon Hove** for the cement he will sell for this new infrastructure, **Bob Basen** for selling said properties and finally, **Jim Cox**, paid the same, because all of it will somehow be the Governments fault.



**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 .....	Arsalee Morales
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 .....	Chris Ackerman
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**

**May 2 Rotary Golf Tournament**  
Apple Valley Golf Course  
\$100 per Player • \$400 per Foursome

**Upcoming Programs**

**April 14** Mary Villa, Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Counselor, Outreach & Education Coordinator **Title: "Medicare"** (Espino)

**April 21** Trevo Samorajski, Reserve Deputy Sheriff/Search and Rescue Team Lead **Title: "Wrightwood Flooding and Damage"** (Page)



**ROTARY GOLF TOURNAMENT**

PRESENTED BY HIGH DESERT ROTARY CLUBS OF APPLE VALLEY & VICTORVILLE

**SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2026**  
**APPLE VALLEY GOLF COURSE**  
**SHOTGUN START: 8:00 AM**

*Proceeds Benefit High School Senior Scholarships*

**REGISTRATION**

- Foursome: \$400
- Single Player: \$125

*Includes refreshments during the tournament!*

**BE A SPONSOR - MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

**Platinum Sponsor - \$ 2500**

- 2 Teams, Team Shirts
- Signage at Event

**Gold Sponsor - \$ 1500**

- 1 Team, Team Shirts

**Bronze Sponsor - \$ 1000**

- 1 Team, Signage at event

**Greens / Tees Sponsor - \$ 250**

- Signage at event

**CONTACT**  
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