



# The Joshua Tree

**February 20, 2024**

## SAFER STREETS..BY THE NUMBERS

After a few delays, the Rotary Club of Victorville was honored to have San Bernardino County Sheriff **Shannon Dicus** join us this week to provide an update on the hard work his department is doing to keep our streets safer.

Operation Consequences is a targeted crime suppression operation focused on reducing violent crime, disrupting, and dismantling targeted criminal street gangs, and locating and arresting criminals illegally possessing, manufacturing, and trafficking firearms.

The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors authorized funding for Operation Consequences, allowing for increased law enforcement services to address quality-of-life concerns in our communities.

The operation has allowed the Sheriff's Gangs/Narcotics Division to partner with our Specialized Enforcement Division and patrol stations, California Highway Patrol, San Bernardino County Probation, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, and Department of Homeland Security Investigations. This collaborative effort aims to effectively combat criminal activities and ensure the safety and well-being of our communities.

From Oct. 1, 2022 through Sept. 15, 2023, Operation



Consequences has accomplished the following:

Arrests: 899

Search Warrants: 713

Firearm Seizures: 1,184 (total)

Ghost Guns: 224

Traffic Stops: 3,090 with 995 citation issued

**In the area of narcotics seized:**

Cocaine: 13,167 lbs

Methamphetamine: 1,825 lbs.

Heroin: 22.31 lbs

Fentanyl: 191.297 lbs

### ILLICIT CANNABIS INDUSTRY

The recent murders of six men in Adelanto serve as a grim reminder of the violence that comes with illicit cannabis operations that continue to plague our region. This illicit industry exploded from small sites to hundreds of large operations in a short amount of time.

In 2016, Prop. 64 the "Legalization of Marijuana" was introduced by the legislature and promised to eradicate the black market and generate billions of dollars in sales revenue. It did the opposite of that.

Prop. 64 reduced some criminal penalties from felonies to misdemeanors, with a mere \$500 fine. The illicit industry grew substantially, bringing with it other illegal activities such as human trafficking, theft, environmental concerns, terrorizing residents and murder.

In 2022, Sheriff Dicus launched Operation Hammer Strike with funding from the County Board of Supervisors to help curtail the violence caused by the hundreds of grow sites illegally operating in our region.

### This Week's Functionaries

**Invocation:** **Bill Edwards**

**Flag Salute:** **Chris Ackerman**

**4-Way Test:** **Steve Murray**

**Fine Master:** **Ryan McEachron**

*Continued on page 2*

## MURRAY'S MINUTE



Thank you to Sheriff Shannon Dicus for coming out to share information on all of the incredible steps

you are making, not only locally, but also nationally to benefit San Bernardino



County. We appreciate you taking the time with your very busy schedule.

We have our Gift Basket raffle tickets now available for \$10 each! We will give you a



pack of 25 to sell at work, to friends and family members! Currently,

the basket is over \$2,400 worth of goodies! Please continue to donate to the gift basket so we can sell many more tickets. The winning ticket will be drawn at this year's Demotion Party.

Please continue to keep Margaret Cooker in your prayers as she is currently in a 5th hospital, currently at UC Irvine in Orange, CA. She would love to have visitors, so please make the time if you can.

See you next week...

Steve

## Sheriff Dicus

Continued from page 1

- In 2023, their Marijuana Enforcement Team had:
- Executed 411 search warrants
- Seized \$370 million worth of illicit Marijuana
- Seized 180 Firearms
- Confiscated 655,000 plants
- 74,000 lbs of processed Marijuana
- Discovered 14 honey labs

### CONCEAL CARRY WEAPONS

Sheriff Dicus has complete confidence in his deputies and know they are committed to public safety, but they can't always be everywhere. Good people should be allowed to defend themselves properly, and he is committed to continuing the CCW program in our county. They now have an online application process, making it more streamlined.

Their website lists all the information on the qualifications, requirements, and frequently asked questions. For more information, please visit: [www.sbcounty.gov/sheriff/ccw](http://www.sbcounty.gov/sheriff/ccw).

## Raffle



**Bill Edwards** donated four Cinnabon cups and mix that will be enjoyed by **Don Lager, Denny Wells**, guest **Bobby Clemmer** and **Jim Murray**. **Angel Espino** brought a couple packs of coffee and mugs from Edward Jones that went home with Jim and guest **William Racowschi** from the Victorville Fire Department. Angel himself didn't leave empty handed by winning a Bob's Tire tumbler from President **Steve Murray**, and a set of Rotary drink coasters from **Russ Stringham**.

Finally **Keith Metzler** left the meeting with a bottle of wine, courtesy of **David North**.



CREATE HOPE in the WORLD



## Big Blue Poker Chip



*Bill Scott had the chance to pick the Blue Poker Chip, but picked green and saved the chance for another next week. The pot will continue next week with 13 chips and \$225 for the lucky Rotarian who has their ticket drawn.*

## Rotary Guests



This week, we once again welcomed **Angel Espino** from Edward Jones, who attended as a guest of **Mike Page**. **Darron Poulson** invited **Brad Adams** and **Ray Lopez** from the VVWRA.

**Gayle Covey**, Community Relations Officer from the San Bernardino County Sheriff Department attended with **Sheriff Shannon Dicus**. **Arely Solares** joined the meeting as a guest of **Donna Wells** and **William Racowski** and **Bobby Clemmer** from the Victorville Fire Department were at the meeting with **Keith Metzler**.

Our Stand-Ins this week were **Stefanie Montoya** for **Bryan Gillespie**, **Denny Wells** for **Donna Wells** and **Kalin Westover** for **Darron Poulson**.



## Fine Session



**Ryan McEachron** was our Fine Master this week and began by fining **Bill Edwards** \$20 for his phone going off during the meeting. To keep the contract between the Victorville Sheriff

Department and the City of Victorville, both **Captain John Wickum** and **Keith Metzler** were both ordered to pay \$10 each.

Finally, Keith was also fined \$1 for each pothole in the city as a result of this week's day long rain storm. Guesses were around a thousand dollar fine.

## Spoon of Exemption

**Dan Dever** had another week with the Spoon and shared more tax history facts. Here are some brief facts on income taxes and when they began:

- From 1791-1862, the US government relied on taxing internal and imported goods to support the government and pay for the War of 1812.

- In 1862, Congress enacted the first income tax to pay for the Civil War. This led to the establishment of the Internal Revenue Service.

- In 1896, the US Supreme Court ruled that income tax was unconstitutional. It was reversed in the early 1900's.



## The Polio Pig

**Collected this week: \$18.00**

*Polio Pig: \$13 + Dice (Bill Scott) \$5 = \$18.00*

**Collected to Date: \$20,294.33**

**Total equals: 101,567 Doses!**

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



## VICTORVILLE ROTARY CLUB OFFICERS

### Board of Directors

President 2023-2024 .....	Steve Murray
President 2024-2025 .....	Bryan Gillespie
President 2025-2027 .....	Bill Edwards
President 2027 - 2028 .....	<b>Please be Interviewed</b>
Immediate Past President/Special Projects.....	Arsalee Morales
Treasurer/Scholarships .....	David North
Executive Secretary/Foundation/Grants .....	Margaret Cooker
Club Service/Membership .....	Bryan Gillespie
Community Service/Speech Contests .....	Mike Johnson
International Service.....	Ben Tafoya
Youth Service/Ryla & TLC/Ethics Essay.....	Ron Boyd
Vocational Service .....	Bill Edwards

**Members-at-Large:** Rob Kilpatrick & Bob Basen

### Positions & Committee Chairs

BOD Secretary .....	Pam Murray
Billing Officer .....	Esther Mears
Dan Stover Music Contest.....	Bill Edwards
Flowers and Gifts .....	Linda Hove
Foundation & Grants .....	Margaret Cooker
Fundraising.....	Arsalee Morales
Joshua Tree Editor .....	Chris Ackerman
Membership.....	Bryan Gillespie
Programs .....	Mike Page
Publicity/Public Relations .....	Rob Kilpatrick
Public Safety.....	Rick Bessinger, Teresa DeAtley, and John Wickum
Sergeant At Arms.....	Steve Murray
Scholarships.....	David North
S.T.A.R. Students .....	Maureen Mills and Michal Krause

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, Thursday various meeting locations and times. 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 11: Board of Directors Meeting**  
5:00pm Fellowship  
5:30 pm Board Meeting  
Location: Robar Enterprises  
17671 Bear Valley Road, Hesperia, CA

**Rotary**  
Club of Victorville, CA



## Upcoming Programs

- Feb 27: Dan Stover Music Contest** (Edwards)
- Mar 5: Junior High 4-Way Speech Contest** (Johnson)
- Mar 12:** Jennifer Contreras, Community Engagement Specialist, Ontario Airport Authority **TOPIC: Update & History of Ontario Airport** (Page)
- Mar 19: Club Level Ethics Essay Contest** (Boyd)  
**S.T.A.R. Students**
- Mar 26:** Keith Metzler, City Manager, City of Victorville **TOPIC: City Update** (Page)

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