**STATEWIDE RECOGNITION**

**District earns governance award**

Victor Valley Union High School District Superintendent Dr. Ron Williams was in Sacramento on Thursday along with Hook Junior High Principal Carlos Cerna as VVUHSD’s governance team received the California Middle Grades Alliance Governance Award from state Superintendent Tom Torlakson in Sacramento last week.

(Photo submitted by Ron Williams)

**CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION**

**Pathways to Success**

Nearly 700 Victor Valley Union High School District students recently attended "Pathways to Success" at the fairgrounds in Victorville.

Students from Victor Valley High, Silverado, Adelanto, University Prep and CIMS joined roughly 70 district staff members including

(Click here to read PATHWAYS on Page 8)
STATE SENATOR IN TOWN

State Sen. Scott Wilk, right, talks with Adelanto High School Principal Ebony Purcell, left. Wilk toured career and technical education programs at the campus and met with Victor Valley Union High School District leaders. (Photo by McKenzie Tarango / VVUHSD)

Wilk visits AHS, meets with VVUHSD officials

State Senator Scott Wilk recently visited Adelanto High School and the Victor Valley Union High School District offices as he met with education leaders in the area.

Wilk said he often visited schools in his jurisdiction during his time in the State Assembly, a practice he plans to continue after winning the 21st Senate District seat last November.

“I wanted to meet with those who are on the front lines to see what Sacramento can do to help them and what Sacramento might be doing to hinder them,” Wilk said.

The Republican senator toured the career technical education programs at AHS, including automotive, child development, medical and public safety. VVUHSD career technical education coordinator McKenzie Tarango said Wilk “spoke to our teachers about CTE needs in an effort to inform his legislative decisions.”

During the Jan. 31 trip, Wilk also met with officials from Adelanto Elementary School District, Apple Valley Unified, Hesperia Unified and Victor Elementary School District. AHS was the only school campus he visited, but he plans to come back to the area in the fall to see more local campuses.

“I was very impressed with (Principal Ebony Purcell) and her leadership team at Adelanto High,” Wilk said. “The campus
Hundreds of Hook Junior High School eighth-graders received hands-on history lessons last week as the school hosted its annual Old West Days event.

Teachers, staff and eighth-grade students dressed in Western-style garb and took part in activities including panning for gold, wood-cutting, tug-of-war, butter-churning, quilting, sack races and much more.

The centerpiece of the event was a large replica of a Native American teepee, assembled by Hook Principal Carlos Cerna and his staff on the center of the campus early Wednesday morning.

Cerna said the eighth-grade history curriculum centers around U.S. history, and the school holds events throughout the year to bring the material to life.

“The eighth-graders really enjoyed it,” Cerna said. “The staff and student participation was outstanding.”

The school also put on a play for students at the end of the day which centered around the “cowboy code” — promoting positive and ethical behavior.

The Old West Days tradition stretches back decades at the Victorville school. This year’s event was chaired by Hook English teacher Dianna Marler. Victor Valley Union High School District administrators Laurren Francoisse, Christine Foote and Dr. Laureen Beyer, along with Lakeview Leadership Academy teacher Dr. John Beyer, also participated.
SPORTS

CIF success for VVUHSD

NOTE: Click the links in this article for more coverage of VVUHSD’s sports teams.

Soccer and wrestling lead an impressive list of accomplishments for the Victor Valley Union High School District’s sports teams in this winter’s CIF playoffs.

Two VVUHSD boys soccer teams will play for CIF-Southern Section titles on Saturday in Corona. The Adelanto boys defeated Brentwood in overtime this week to earn a spot in the school’s first CIF championship game in any team sport. They will face Dunn at noon Saturday at Corona High School. The AHS boys soccer and basketball teams have each won back-to-back Desert Sky League championships.

The Victor Valley boys soccer team beat Nuview Bridge to reach the school’s first title match in boys soccer. They will also be at Corona High School on Saturday, taking on Santa Clara at 5 p.m.

In boys wrestling, Victor Valley captured a CIF-SS Southern Division title and sent Sunny Luna to Friday’s CIF state meet in Bakersfield.

In girls wrestling, Silverado’s Danielle Garcia finished 7th in the state meet, becoming the school’s first state placer in girls wrestling. Silverado also won its first DSL girls soccer title this year.

PARENT PROGRAM

12 Powers of Family Business

Photo and information submitted by Maura Balmaceda

“12 Powers of Family Business” promotes stronger families who will raise stronger students as they together create a better community.

Organizers would like to thank Tlaloc Garcia (Spanish teacher at University Preparatory), who allowed his classroom to be used to present this program for 12 weeks as well as for participating in the program and being an integral part of its outcome, and Principal Valerie Hatcher for allowing the program to take place on her campus as she also continues her work on creating ties between families, school and community.

VVUHSD in collaboration with the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools is looking forward to offering this program again prior to the end of the school year to support our parents and community.
LAKEVIEW LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Robotics competition

A group of Lakeview Leadership Academy students recently competed in a regional playoff robotics match at Ranchero Middle School in Hesperia.

Competing against teams from the Victor Valley and Antelope Valley areas on Feb. 4, one of Lakeview students were part of an "alliance" team that made it to the semifinals and finished in third place. Teacher Sherri Osterberg was joined at the event by students Luis Aparicio, Emilio Sanchez, Zack Reist, Jose Alvarado and Juan Ortega.

LITERARY ACCOMPLISHMENT

LLA teacher gets 3rd novel published

Lakeview Leadership Academy teacher Dr. John R. Beyer is seeing continued success in his literary career, recently completing his third novel.

*Operation Scorpion* was released by publisher Black Opal Books in January. The thriller tells the story of a rogue military officer secreting nuclear waste near one of America's most prestigious Army training facilities.

Beyer has also recently seen his short stories published in Foliate Oak Literary Magazine (2016) and GNU Journal (2017). His previous two novels were *Hunted* (2013) and *Soft Target* (2014).

Prior to becoming a teacher, Beyer spent nearly 10 years as a police officer. He's had a lifelong passion for writing both fiction and nonfiction. *Operation Scorpion* is available through Amazon and other booksellers, in paperback and in electronic formats such as Kindle and Google Play.
Victor Valley High School's new Family Engagement Center recently hosted its first Parent Workshop/Dinner of the 2016-17 school year.

Maria Mercado, the new VVHS Family Engagement Liaison, said the event focused on the topic of "Healthcare Options."

"It was a very informative and successful workshop," Mercado said. "We had 70-plus guests, and all enjoyed the presentation provided to them by The Children's Partnership Program."

Mercado said the event was catered by VVHS Culinary Department.
Governance Award.

Cerna nominated the VVUHSD board and Dr. Williams for the honor. The award recognizes district governance leaders who are effectively working together to ensure success and close the achievement gap for all of their middle grades students by providing support for their schools and a focus on: academic excellence, developmental responsiveness to the needs of young adolescents, socially equitable practices, and organizational structures and processes. The award is presented annually to approximately 40 secondary school boards and their superintendents. State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson was on-hand at Thursday's luncheon to deliver the awards.

Assistant Superintendent of Business Services Brian Hawkins was named Business Administrator of the Year; and Goodwill Education Center Dean of Students Benisha Carr was named Continuation/Ed Options Administrator of the Year.

In addition, two of VVUHSD’s community partners were named Partners in Educational Excellence: The It’s a Gas to go to Class program of Victorville Motors (nominated by Silverado Principal Heather Conkle) and the Hippocrates Circle Program from Kaiser (nominated by Hook Principal Carlos Cerna).

The administrators and partners will be honored at a banquet on April 20 in San Bernardino.

Hawks sign with universities

ABOVE: Silverado senior offensive lineman Tyson Pauling (center, seated) signed a letter of intent Feb. 1 to play for Portland State University on a full-ride scholarship. Pauling is joined at the table by parents Kareem Pauling (left) and Heather Pauling, Standing, from left to right, are Silverado Athletic Director Iggy Garcia, head football coach Rafael Ginorio, Principal Heather Conkle and assistant coach Ke’ron Jones. BELOW: Silverado senior defensive back Troy Hall (center, seated) signed a letter of intent to play for Western New Mexico University. Hall is joined at the table by parents Troy Hall Sr. (left) and Alyssa Hall. Standing, from left to right, are Garcia, Ginorio, Conkle, assistant coach Brian Scott and Jones.
WILK from Page 2

has a real sense of community.”

Wilk has maintained a focus on education throughout his political career and is currently the vice chair of the Senate Education Committee.

“We appreciate his interest in education,” said VVUHSD Superintendent Dr. Ron Williams, who joined Wilk and other VVUHSD officials for a round-table discussion. “He indicated that he would be a strong advocate for quality educational programs in the district.”

PATHWAYS from Page 1

teachers, administrators, counselors, career technicians and instructional aides for the Feb. 16 career fair hosted by Victorville Motors’ "It’s a Gas" program.

There were vendor booths from local colleges and universities as well as trade schools, informing local high school students about a wide variety of careers and providing information about interviewing/resume skills, FAFSA, financial aid and scholarships.

District CTE Coordinator McKenzie Tarango and other district administrators hosted a booth at the event. VVUHSD had more students participating than any other local district, Tarango said.