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VVUHSD named in list of improved school districts

The Victor Valley Union High School District was recently named one of the most improved school districts in the nation by the real estate website Trulia.com.

Asserting that “millennials rank schools among their highest priorities when it comes to finding a home,” Trulia’s blog took a look at the most improved school district in each of the 10 largest metropolitan areas in the U.S. — and VVUHSD made the list.

Trulia named VVUHSD the most improved district in the Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario metro area, using test score data from the past five years.

“Using SchoolDigger’s proprietary database of state test scores, we looked at how students in qualifying districts performed in 2011 and compared

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ADELANTO HIGH

Stadium to be renamed for Weaver

Adelanto High School’s football stadium will be renamed Friday night in honor of a former Victor Valley Union High School District superintendent who played a key role in getting it built.

Julian P. Weaver, who served as

VVUHSD’s top administrator from 2006 to 2008, will be honored at a stadium renaming ceremony at halftime of Friday night’s football game in Adelanto. The Saints’ game against Serrano starts at

[See STADIUM on Page 4](#)

SPORTS



Signs made by VVHS students are displayed outside the school’s library during Bell Game week.

VVHS students show spirit as Bell Game approaches

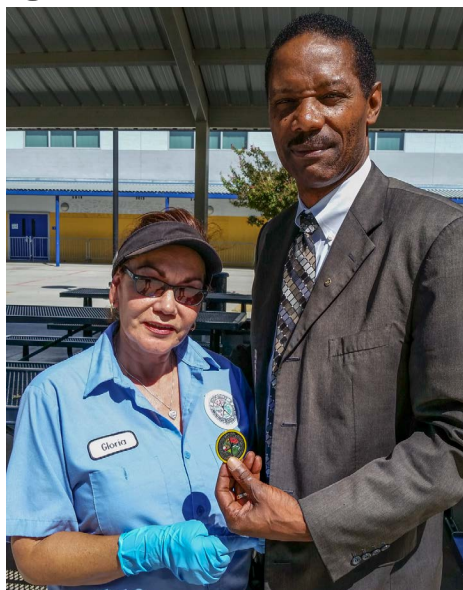
While a few of their hand-made signs may have blown away in the High Desert wind, Victor Valley High School students are still showing plenty of school pride and spirit

this week in preparation for Friday’s Bell Game.

The Jackrabbits travel to Apple Valley at 7 p.m. Friday for the 48th

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STANDOUT CUSTODIAN



On a recent trip to Lakeview Leadership Academy, VVUHS Superintendent Dr. Ron Williams was so impressed by the cleanliness of the campus that he presented custodian Gloria Alvarez with a VVUHS Excellence Coin. (Photo submitted by Kent Crosby)

VVUHS IN THE NEWS



• VVHS football player Justin Ortiz named Daily Press Athlete of the Week: <http://www.vvdailypress.com/article/20160912/SPORTS/160919935>



Justin Ortiz

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that with 2015 results,” Trulia’s David Weidner wrote.

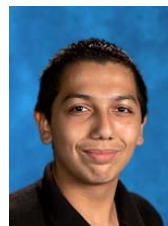
VVUHS ranked 38th out of 47 districts in the metro area in 2011 and ranked 26th in 2015, making it the most improved district in a large region.

For more details, [click here to check out Trulia’s blog post.](#)

CIMS

Cougars senior Navarro still fighting for life as family receives donations

Cobalt Institute of Math and Science senior Allen Navarro continued his battle with cancer this week in the Loma Linda Pediatric ICU, and district personnel presented his family with donations from the community.



Allen Navarro

VVUHS Health Technician Tanya Martin said Allen, 17, had been showing signs of improvement and at one point was taken

off a breathing machine.

“Allen at this time is still fighting, however he has been placed back on the breathing machine,” Martin wrote in an email Tuesday night. “We are continuing to pray for and with the family.”

“Mrs. PJ Ehart and I were able to visit the family last Thursday,”

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SPORTS

Silverado grad stands out at Fresno St.

Silverado High graduate Aleisha Coates, now a volleyball player at Fresno State, has been named the Bulldogs' Student-Athlete of the Week.

According to the Bulldogs' website, the senior outside hitter from Victorville recorded 52 kills in the team's first four games, helping Fresno State to its best start to a season since 2002. Coates, who was named the Boston College Invitational MVP, notched a team-best 147 attacks with a hitting percentage of .170, according to the website.

She posted double-digit kills in all four matches and had 10 digs apiece in each of the 'Dogs first three matches. Coates currently

ranks second in the Mountain West in points and third in kills, according to Fresno State's website.



Aleisha Coates

According to her bio on the Fresno State athletics website, Coates was a four-year letter winner at Silverado High School, playing under head coach Tyrone Brown. She helped the Hawks win the Desert Sky League in 2009 and 2011, while the team was the runner-up in 2010 and 2012. She was named to the All-CIF Southern Section and was the all-area Volleyball Player of the Year in 2011.

Coates is the daughter of Allan and Sarah Coates, who teach in the Victor Valley Union High School District.

— Victor Valley Union High School District —

● BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHTS

Campuses welcome communities

Four Victor Valley Union High School District schools held their 2016-17 Back to School Nights over the past week, welcoming the community to their campuses.

Adelanto High and Lakeview Leadership Academy each held their Back to School events on Sept. 8, followed by Goodwill Education Center (Sept. 12) and

Victor Valley High (Sept. 13).

Staff at each site welcomed parents into classrooms while students helped with fundraising for various programs.

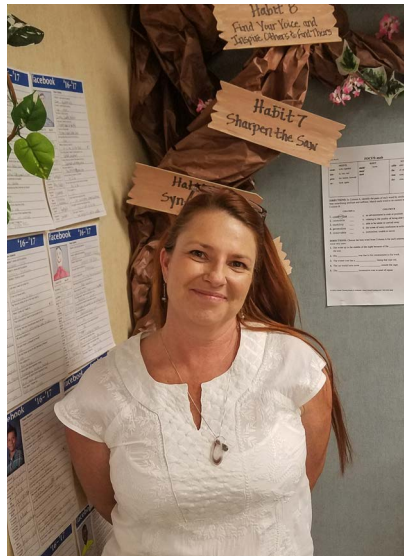
The Back to School Nights at University Preparatory, Cobalt Institute of Math and Science, Silverado High and Hook Junior High were featured in the previous newsletter.



Jackrabbits senior Aimee Lindsay and Senior Class Advisor Greg Nowacki at the VVHS Back to School Night.



Above and below, Adelanto High School students participate in fundraisers at their Back to School Night.



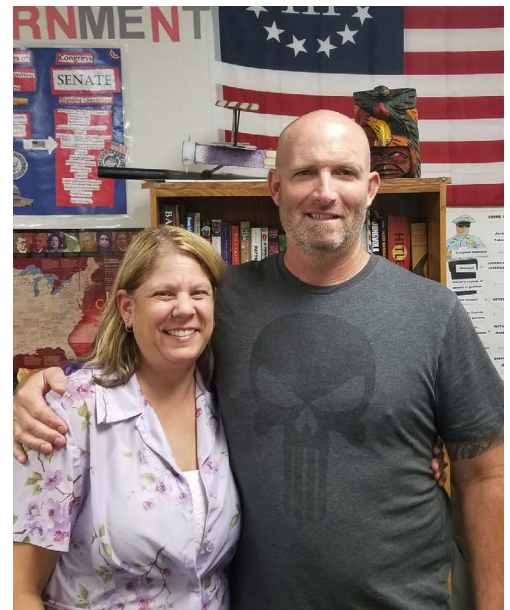
Lakeview Leadership Academy teacher Allison Davis poses in her classroom during Back to School Night.



Lakeview Leadership Academy Principal Kent Crosby, center, enjoyed a Kona Ice treat at Back to School Night.



Goodwill Education Center staff, parents and students at Back to School Night.



Goodwill Education Center teachers Liana Messer, left, and Jim Reed welcomed parents into their classrooms.

— Victor Valley Union High School District —

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edition of the gridiron rivalry.

It's not the longest-running football matchup on Victor Valley's schedule — that distinction belongs to the Axe Game against Barstow — but the Bell Game seems to generate more community and student interest. VVHS Senior Class Advisor Greg Nowacki said that's likely due to the close proximity of the two communities.

Nowacki runs [the school's highly active Twitter account](#), and he'll surely be tweeting before, during and after the big matchup. Follow the account [@VictorValleyHS](#) for updates.

Nowacki and fellow faculty member David Nocera have each been with the school for more than

two decades, and they said student enthusiasm for the Bell Game has ebbed and flowed over the years. Nocera, the school's Activities Director, said he's seen more school spirit during Bell Game week since the school reinstated the annual tradition of a bonfire a few years ago.

This year's bonfire will be held at 7 p.m. Thursday at Ray Moore Stadium, followed by a pep rally on Friday.

Nocera said he expects the visitor's stands at Apple Valley's Newton T. Bass Stadium to be packed on Friday, and total attendance could reach 5,000 or more.

Students created signs that have been posted around the VVHS campus, including a few outside the library and in the cafeteria.

Students are no doubt hoping to witness a Bell Game victory for the first time in their high school careers, as Apple Valley has held the Bell for five straight seasons.

The Jackrabbits, under the tutelage of first-year head coach Sai Maiava, enter the contest undefeated at 3-0, but the Sun Devils are also unbeaten after improving to 2-0 with a blowout victory over Granite Hills two weeks ago.

VVHS beat Hesperia last week on the strength of a three-touchdown passing performance by senior quarterback Justin Ortiz, who [was named the Daily Press Athlete of the Week](#) for his efforts.

Other football games in the district on Friday include Adelanto hosting Serrano and Silverado at home against Eastside.

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7 p.m., with halftime likely to start a few minutes after 8 p.m.

The decision to name the facility after Weaver was made by a committee that included district and community members. Weaver helped get a bond measure on the ballot during his tenure, and the bond funds were used for Adelanto's state-of-the-art campus and stadium.

A longtime High Desert resident, Weaver graduated from Victor Valley High School in 1965. His first stint in the district was from 1970 to 1990; he worked as a teacher, counselor, assistant principal and principal. He was an assistant superintendent for San Bernardino County for 13 years before returning to VVUHSD as superintendent in 2006.



Julian Weaver

"I am extremely proud of leading the bond effort resulting in the construction of Adelanto High School," Weaver said. "Having the Adelanto High School stadium renamed after me is, to say the least, a humbling experience. I am honored beyond belief that the Victor Valley Union High School District has bestowed this recognition on me."

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Martin wrote. "At that time we presented the family with the money that the students, teachers and district staff had raised. In total it was approximately \$1,785. The students raised over \$200 on

their own at Back to School Night. We also created a GoFundMe page in the name of the parents which has raised approximately \$4,176."

Navarro, who has been battling cancer since 10th grade, has been visited recently by several district

representatives, including Superintendent Dr. Ron Williams and Board of Trustees member Rosie Hinojos.

Anyone interested in donating can visit the GoFundMe page at <https://www.gofundme.com/anav-arrobattlesca>.