



Los Angeles County community groups rallied on the Sixth Street Bridge at the beginning of the month to protest recent ICE raids, detailing their economic impact on families. The ongoing financial instability for undocumented workers resulted in the creation of an economic relief program for those impacted and later the declaration of a state of emergency in Los Angeles County.

SB 640 connects students to CSU's

Kaia Mann,
Fast Break Editor

The new California law, SB 640 aims to simplify the path to college, granting eligible California high school students automatic admission into select California State Universities in the 2026-27 school year. This bill hopes to remedy dwindling CSU enrollment numbers and increase students' access to higher education while simplifying the long and expensive application process. To participate, students are required to complete the standard CSU A-G course requirements while maintaining a GPA above 2.5. "I think it could be both good and bad depending on the students," said Valley student Melkon Boyadgian when asked about the implementation of the new bill. "I chose to come to community college because it was better financially, rather than just going to university straight away."

Under SB 640, California Community College students going through CSU's dual admission program, the Transfer Success Pathway, will be given three years instead of two to transfer, with the extension lasting through 2036. CSU and community college leaders are also tasked with developing new "transfer model curricula" and associate degrees in fast-growing fields like renewable energy, cybersecurity, and biotechnology. The direct admissions initiative comes off the heels of a similar pilot program in Riverside county, where over 13,000 high school students were granted direct admission into 10 of the participating Cal State Universities last year. Around half a million students attend a CSU with 87 percent of incoming freshmen reigning from California public high schools. Of the 22 campuses, 16 are participating in the program, excluding San Jose State, San Diego State, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Cal Poly Pomona, Cal State Fullerton and Cal State Long Beach due to cramped admission numbers.

"I think it's great," said Dominic Parras, an admissions counselor for CSU Channel Islands. "I think it's gonna really change college admissions for high school students because it just gives them a new opportunity to get into the CSU system."

California is the tenth state to adopt a direct admission program, including institutions from North Carolina, Hawai'i, Utah and more.

"I think it's a great opportunity to save a headache for the students," said Valley student Samuel Ksachikyan. He continued saying his decision to immediately apply to community college may have been changed if the new direct admission program was available, "having made the process simpler."



Scan QR code to read more

Covid is making a comeback in California

Students display little concern over catching covid even though health officials warn cases are increasing.

Mariam Mkrтчian,
News Editor

Although masks have mostly disappeared on campus, health officials say covid cases are on the rise in California. The Los Angeles Times reports the amount of covid positive tests in California has doubled between July and September, with students caught in the middle of an unexpected surge. Some students remain uninformed about the surge, while others continue to take precautions. Officials at Valley's Student Health Center said, "In general we have seen a rise in cases, and it is something that students have been coming in with." Officials further added that students have been coming in with positive tests and multiple symptoms. As of September 2025, covid case numbers in California have increased throughout the summer months, with 6.72 percent of covid cases testing positive. The Los Angeles Times reported that the increase in cases is tied to a new, more easily transmissible variant of the virus. However, the fact that there was an increase in covid-19 positive cases does not mean students should be alarmed. The hospitalization rate is lower than last summer because of the effectiveness of the vaccine.

On campus, the rise in cases has been met with mixed awareness. Angela Panameño, a 23-year-old student at Valley, admitted, "Honestly, I haven't been as concerned because I thought it was over with," despite having noticed more people getting sick. Unaware of the rise in covid rates in California this summer, she describes how she experienced symptoms herself, but didn't test for covid, assuming it might have been a cold. This highlights the gap between actual data and public awareness among younger college students. On the other hand, the shift in numbers has also caught the attention of students who continue to live with the impact of the pandemic. Jessica Collins, a mother and student at Valley, says she remains alert. "I am always a little in the back of my brain worried about it coming back," she said. "It's funny because one of my best friends got it, and it was her first time getting covid a few months ago." Collins continues to take precautions, wearing a mask in the airport and on planes, ensuring she always carries a mask with her in case of finding herself in unexpected crowds. She emphasizes how the pandemic has instilled a more mindful mindset of hygiene and cleanliness, especially with a nine-year-old daughter at home. The California Department of Public Health has just released its own vaccine recommendations. Gov. Gavin Newsom, along with other health officials, have released vaccine recommendations for covid-19. Signed in September, Assembly Bill 144 ensures that insurance plans cover recommended immunizations, meaning that covid-19 vaccines are covered at no cost. Other ways to protect yourself, recommended by the CDC, include taking a covid test when feeling symptoms, practicing good hygiene, and distancing yourself from large crowds.



Illustration by Alejandro Rafael for The Valley Star

"No Kings" protest draws 7 million

Thousands of Los Angeles residents show up for Saturday's rally against President Donald Trump.



Protesters of all ages were chanting and carrying signs at Saturday's "No Kings" protest. Hundreds showed up at Salazar Park on the corner of Whittier Boulevard and Alma Avenue.

Daimler Koch,
Editor-in-chief

Thousands of Los Angeles residents showed up to "No Kings" protests across the county Saturday to march against President Donald

Trump and his administration's controversial policies. The protests were organized by the nonprofit organization Indivisible and have made a "No Kings" website where viewers can find scheduled protests and news updates. Nationwide, organizers reported

7 million protesters with the events taking place in San Francisco, Chicago, New York City and Atlanta, among other major cities. In Los Angeles, City Hall attracted the most protesters with many smaller protests spread across Burbank, Long Beach, Thou-

sand Oaks and Studio City. Many said they were marching against Trump's policies and wanted to take a stand. "I'm here because I want to give the people a voice," Dante Tran, a protester from Koreatown, said. "I want to reach out to people. I have a platform, so I want to elevate the voices I think should be heard." Various sizes of gatherings formed in every part of the county, but City Hall was the epicenter for the largest rally, attracting thousands. At Grand Park, large crowds met to chant and listen to speakers as they rallied the audience before their encircling march around the park, effectively shuddering the streets in the process. The visage of the moving mass was of a colorful character. It consisted of many flags symbolizing differing identities, such as American, Mexican, Guatemalan, Palestinian and Pride, along with many protesters in Halloween costumes. Some of the signs read: "ICE out of LA," "No tax breaks for billionaires," "Release the Epstein files" and, "No Kings."

Meanwhile, local community protests popped up as well, such as the one in the small Salazar Park in East LA. The sidewalk filled with families chanting "No kings, no crowns, we won't back down," and "show me what democracy looks like; this is what democracy looks like." Among some of the protesters in East LA was member of the California State Senate Maria Elena Durazo, who represents the area. "Whether you're a naturalized citizen or born here, it doesn't matter," Durazo said. "The way you are being treated by ICE agents is completely unacceptable. It's inhumane. It's cruel. It shows a level of hate and disrespect for human beings, and that's not what this country is all about." After the protests, Trump described the marches as "a joke" and said, "I'm not a king." He also took to Truth Social and posted an AI video of him flying a fighter jet while dumping mud on New York protesters. "I think it's important because people should get their voice out there," Cristian Almora, an engineering major at Valley, said of the protests. "It's a free country, and everyone should have their opinions heard one way or another."

Gabriel Gomez and Mara Klein contributed to this story.

VALLEY LIFE



Matthew Mejia for the Valley Star



Matthew Mejia for the Valley Star

(Top) Crowds wait in line for the rope drop at Universal Studios Hollywood Halloween Horror Nights. The Hollywood theme park represents one of the most popular spooky spots in the fall. (Bottom) A Purge character swings their bat on the Universal Studios Terror Tram.

The thrills and chills of October: a guide to Halloween theme parks

Valley College students are among those who are willing to spend a couple hundred dollars to enjoy a frightening night.

Gabriela Martinez and Rosemary Villalonga, Staff Writers

When Robert Burns penned his 1786 poem “Halloween,” he likely would not have imagined that today’s students would be waiting in hour-long lines and pay up to \$200 for a chance to get spooked. Universal Studios Hollywood has hosted their annual Halloween Horror Nights since 1991. Valley College student and “scare actor” Aidan Vasquez said that the adrenaline from this experience creates a “good bond with friends.” With general admission prices starting at approximately \$85, Halloween Horror Nights guarantees a night full of haunted houses, scare zones and rides. “I like the thrill a lot,” Brian Soria, a maze host at Universal Studios and a cinematography major at Valley College, said. “It’s always been a party.” Universal Studios Hollywood does not publicly disclose the amount of attendees each year. The theme of each haunted house at Universal Studios changes every year, providing new adventures. “It’s fun to see the way that they decorate it,” Valley College student and frequent Horror Nights visitor Abby Chatalyan said. This year, inspirations come from Five Nights at Freddy’s, Terrifier, Fallout and more. The Terrifier is a horror film based on the fictional serial killer, Art the clown. Fall Out, a post-apocalyptic sci-fi about

a world surrounded by nuclear war, and Five Nights at Freddy’s, a horror franchise centered about surviving the dark, haunted, animatronic filled pizzeria, Freddy Fazbear’s Pizza. Many guests wear the Halloween merch sold by the park and inspired by these haunted houses. Costumes are also allowed as long as they follow the guidelines by avoiding graphic, offensive and realistic costumes. Wearing comfortable themed attire allows for a night full of fun, Halloween spirit. The Oxford English dictionary defines October 31st as the eve of all hallowes, over time developing the name “Halloween”. This name was a combination of the Scottish words “hallow” which translated to “saint” or “holy person” and “een” which translated to “evening”. It wasn’t until Scottish poet and lyricist Robert Burns merged both words in his 1786 poem, “Halloween” that ultimately made the name of this holiday official. Six Flags Magic Mountain also offers their take on a night full of terror with Fright Fest, which has been around since the 1990s. A ticket with the Haunted Attractions Pass ranges from \$65 to \$109. For an additional \$18.99, kids can receive a “No Boo Necklace,” which claims to reduce the likelihood of being scared inside the scare zones. Add-ons like these are set to ensure everyone has an enjoyable time. Valley College student Ha-

ley Wierschem said the feeling “was a fun-scared.” Six Flags Magic Mountain does not disclose the amount of attendees each year. Additionally, Knott’s Scary Farm is an alternative classic, with mazes and scare zones themed to the lands of the park. The longest-running Halloween theme park event in Southern California, Scary Farm sells tickets ranging from \$64 to \$89. They also feature special discounted tickets for military members and first responders. The holiday is also celebrated by Disneyland who’s been hosting the Main Street Pumpkin Festival since 2006. The park redecorates the Haunted Mansion to the film The Nightmare Before Christmas and puts on special Halloween fireworks. Disneyland ticket prices in October range from \$140 to \$200. Meanwhile, Disney California Adventure Park offers Oogie Boogie Bash, an evening event where fans can collect candy and meet their favorite Disney villains. Tickets are hard to come by, though, and the event capacity is very limited. The Disneyland Resort does not disclose how many people attend each year. Visitors to each of these Southern California events can celebrate Halloween and kick off autumn while enjoying themed food, haunted rides and spooky mazes with friends and family.

Esther Gwynne has been singing at Valley for over six decades

At 80 years old, the choir member has projected her voice across campus since the early ’60s with no plans to stop anytime soon.

Gabriel Gomez, Staff Writer

Where does the fusion of music and that elusive human soul originate? For Esther Gwynne, the two became inextricably linked when she was introduced to Bach’s “All Breathing Life, Sing and Praise Ye the Lord” in her high school choir. As she spoke of this piece, her hitherto temperate demeanor was suddenly washed over by a seemingly somber and joyful remembrance. “It was the most beautiful thing I had ever heard... It blew me away.” And what – one might ask – was it she admired about that illustrious Hun? “First of all, it’s the polyphony. He had the voices mathematically tuned so they came in really, really well. The other thing is the melody and counter melody. He starts out with a little melody going and layers another melody on top of it. They are both beautifully synchronized and just gorgeous.” Born in a Van Nuys hospital on May 5, 1945, Gwynne spent the following eight decades as an 818 local. In 1963 she was a freshman at Valley College. Tuition was free then, she said, and most of the student body was caucasian – split relatively equally between men and women. Esther spent

almost all of her time during these years in the music building on the north end of campus. The then music professor Richard Knox hired her to run errands and perform menial tasks for himself and the music faculty, which she seemed grateful nonetheless to have been selected for. “He taught me a lot about music and interval singing.” Equipped with only a budding contralto voice at the time, she braved an audition with Paul Salamunovitch – later the conductor for the LA Master Chorale – for his choir that practiced at UCLA upon her transfer there in 1965. “Your voice isn’t very big, but you sure read well. So come on in,” she recalled him saying with amusement. After graduating as a Bruin in ‘67, she used her Spanish major and music minor to teach both disciplines at a Burbank middle school. She returned to the Valley eveningtime Philharmonic in ‘77 after establishing her career and family life in the years she spent away. For the next 46 years she would be a steadfast member of the group and witness the coming and going – the unending perpetual ebb and flow – of the vast multitudes of students and faculty alike. I wanted to know what changes she had witnessed. “The music department was excellent back then, and it seems to

be excellent now. A few years ago the Philharmonic was cut out of the budget... Woe is me!” After reaching out to the choir conductor, Professor Glen Carlos, I got a second perspective on how deeply embedded she is in this community: “Esther Gwynne is one of the most thoughtful, kind and talented people in my life. She has sung in the choirs at LAVC for decades. One of the displays of her thoughtfulness is her patience. When new students enter the College Choir every semester, there has to be a little period of time where I help students who are new to reading music to work on their music literacy. Someone with Esther’s robust musical experience could easily be frustrated by this period in the semester. But not Esther. She also helps the choirs by taking these fledgling music readers and patiently helps support them in their music reading skills so that they too can more fully engage in the whole performing experience... Esther is a gem among people!” As a new octogenarian, Esther shows no lack of vigor or vitality. One could find her singing tenor in Valley’s College Choir (after the demise of her beloved Philharmonic) or Christmas carols with her troupe de chant known as the “Ha’ Penny Singers,” wherever they may be booked this coming holiday season.



Alejandro Garcia for the Valley Star

Esther Gwynne caught in mid verse of “Fly Me to the Moon.” The 80 year old student has been attending Valley since 1963 and remembers when it was still ok to smoke on campus.

“Warfare” delivers a lot noise but lacks emotional depth

A24’s film about the Iraq War overwhelms the senses at the expense of character driven storytelling.



Murray Close

(L-R) Taylor John Smith and Cosmo Jarvis as Frank and Elliot Miller in Alex Garland’s Warfare released this April, now available to stream on HBOMax.

Martin Romero, Special to The Star

“Warfare,” A24’s latest war film directed by Alex Garland and co-directed by Ray Mendoza, offers a glimpse into Mendoza’s harrowing near-death

experience during the Iraq War but ultimately falls short of delivering a cohesive story. Set in Ramadi, Iraq in 2006, the film follows a team of Navy SEALs surrounded in a seized Iraqi family’s house after their surveillance mission turns into a deadly fire-

fight with Al Qaeda fighters. Rather than focusing on story or character development, directors Garland and Mendoza rely on loud, chaotic sound and stark visuals to draw viewers into the chaos of combat. Their approach creates an

intense, almost immersive battlefield atmosphere, but leaves very little room for an emotional connection between the audience members and the story’s characters. This leads to one of the film’s most significant weaknesses: a lack of character depth. Despite the gripping premise, the first half of “Warfare” moves at a crawl. Long stretches of silence create tension but do little to build the characters or explain their backstories. Viewers are left with very few reasons to care about the soldiers beyond their uniforms and the suffering of combat. With so little context for the SEALs’ decision to hold an Iraqi family hostage and use their house for the mission, the film makes it even harder for viewers to connect with the characters or care for their fate. Unlike Garland’s 2024 “Civil War,” which followed photojournalists through a divided America at war and balanced action with story, “Warfare” leans almost entirely into the sensory experience. This is greatly demonstrated in the opening scene of the movie, which begins with Eric Prydz’s “Call on Me” blaring as the camera pans out to reveal the soldiers,

signaling the film’s obsession with noise and chaos. When the firefight finally erupts, deafening gunfire and constant explosions dominate the sound mix. Instead of pulling audiences deeper into the chaos, the relentless noise overwhelms the limited dialogue, dulling the emotional weight of the action. Though the absence of a musical score helps keep the film somewhat grounded, it also makes it feel hollow compared to recent war dramas like All Quiet on the Western Front, which uses music to its advantage by heightening emotions. Having Mendoza, a Navy SEAL who survived the real events, might have brought depth and insight, yet the film barely gives us any insight into his mind. Furthermore, a star-studded cast, including Will Poulter, Joseph Quinn, Kit Connor, Michael Gandolfini and Noah Centineo, is largely hidden behind helmets, leaving little room for standout performances or character growth. When the Al Qaeda insurgents eventually discover the team, the long-awaited firefight begins. While the intensity finally rises, the nonstop gunfire and explosions make the second half of the movie

more numbing than gripping. “Warfare” is best seen in theaters, where its booming sound and gritty visuals have the most impact, but viewers should temper expectations. Slow pacing, shallow characters and wasted talent weigh down what could have been a gripping survival story. Garland’s past work in “Civil War” and “Ex Machina” shows his ability to balance spectacle with storytelling, but here he allows the imbalances to leave the film loud and disjointed rather than powerful. In the end, “Warfare” offers intensity without connection, a war film that rattles the senses but rarely touches the heart.

Content advisory: Rated R for intense war violence and bloody/grisly images, and language throughout.



OPINION

Community March Highlights Economic Toll of ICE Raids

Undocumented immigrants face mental and financial strain amidst increased immigration enforcement.



Brian Griffin for the Valley Star

Jamie Morales, a street vendor in the San Fernando Valley, Plans his vending route to reduce risk amid ongoing ICE raids.

Hermes Padilla,
Staff Writer

Los Angeles County is home to an estimated 950,000 undocumented immigrants. With the recent ICE raids causing economic hardships, there has been an influx of marches to protest the impact they have had for undocumented workers and their families. “¡La gente unida, jamás será vencida!” echoed across the Sixth Street Bridge on Oct. 4, as hundreds of people, along with more than 30 immigrant rights organizations, labor union and clergy members,

marched to denounce the raids. “We are marching today to denounce cruelty,” said Angelica Salas, executive director of CHIRLA, regarding the ICE raids. “They are investing money to attack, when we can be investing in care.” For Jaime Morales, a 35-year-old ice cream vendor from Mexico, the raids have drastically reshaped daily life. Instead of freely selling on busy streets, Morales now travels between select locations, carefully avoiding federal agents. “It’s scary because since the ICE raids started, I’ve had it tough financially,” he said. “Back in July, I didn’t even go out to sell out of fear,

so I got behind on rent and bills. I’ve spent the past months trying to catch up, but even now, I cannot sell the way I used to. I notice I earn \$200–\$300 less per month.” His story highlights a broader pattern: raids disrupt workplaces, create uncertainty and force families to make hard choices to pay for basic needs. For many, income alone is not enough. More than 67% of undocumented households in Los Angeles County spend more than a third of their income on rent, which places many families at risks of eviction or homelessness, placing many in a dire need for assistance. To help alleviate the burden,

local officials moved to provide relief with the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved a \$30 million rent relief package for families impacted by the raids and recent wildfires. While this assistance will provide a cushion for some, implementation can take up to 90 days, leaving many households in limbo. Meanwhile, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) received a budget increase. “They are investing \$107 billion in DHS, when we could be investing in keeping our communities safe and housed,” said Yvonne Wheeler, president of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor.

“For families who have lost a breadwinner, we are looking to garner further support to help people replace what they can, because sentimental things can’t be replaced.” With a state of emergency having been implemented for Los Angeles County this week, there are many families left uncertain when the economic toll they are experiencing will end. For Morales, his mental strain mirrors the financial stress. “I’ve had to learn who to sell to and even what time to show up.” Morales added, “It’s tiring and it’s not how I should have to live.”

SB 640 is a necessary step towards preserving higher ed

The bill expands the CSU’s direct admission program, creating a smoother pathway between high school and university.

Daimler Koch,
Editor-in-chief

On Oct. 6, Gov. Gavin Newsom signed a bill into law that will prove consequential towards Californians’ higher education goals. Called SB 640, the bill aims to give more Californians greater chances at going to college via the California State University, ultimately providing a benefit to state residents dreaming of attending higher education. The main intent of the bill is to build easier pathways be-

tween high school and college, or community college and four-years, beginning with applications for the 2027-28 school year. High school seniors who complete their A-G requirements and maintain a

minimum GPA of 2.5 will automatically be accepted to a CSU campus. Additionally, the CSU’s Dual Admission program will be extended until the 2035-36 school year, giving more transfer students in California community colleges a guaranteed spot at the CSU. SB 640 will positively impact students’ ability and willingness to complete a bachelor’s in-state. First off, it will lessen the stress of applying to colleges in the first place. 89% of high school seniors say they have moderate to high levels of anxiety applying to colle-

ges; the bill will remedy this by giving them that coveted spot at a CSU. In addition, Dual Admission students will receive an extra year (three instead of two) to complete transfer requirements to qualify for the program. It may also give students greater confidence in applying for colleges. 63% of Americans aged 16-22 agreed with the statement, “It has felt like I am not the type of student colleges are looking for.” Giving the people in this demographic guaranteed admissions – a direct admittance to a “safe school” – may motivate them to apply for their dream schools, or otherwise still give them that chance of obtaining a bachelor’s at a four-year. Lastly, direct admissions to colleges can help fix disparities in higher education admissions overall. The California Department of Education reported that in the 2022-23 academic school year, the college going rate for high school seniors was 65.7%; it was lower among African American and Hispanic students (51.4% and 56.8% respectively) than among

their white and Asian counterparts (70.9% and 76.9% respectively). Similar patterns were found among California transfer students. Direct admissions programs can help close this gap; they have been found to increase college applications from Black students by 12%, and among Hispanic students by 2.9%. In other states, similar programs have shown remarkable results. North Carolina’s program, NC College Connect, is expecting to offer 62,000 of its high schoolers spots in 40 four-years and all 58 community colleges for the 2026-27 school year. The State University of New York saw an enrollment uptick of 2.3% after the state began its own program. And after Idaho enacted its program, Campus Choice, the state saw increases from both incoming high school students and students from two-year institutions. SB 640 can help many earn a bachelor’s degree, which rewards graduates with higher incomes and stabler employment. Helping put students on that path is a great initiative in and of itself.

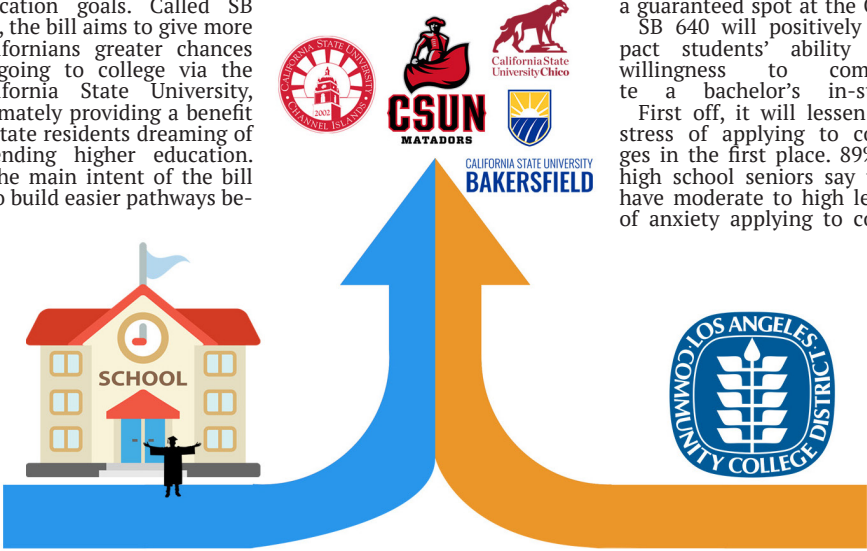


Illustration by Alejandro Rafael for The Valley Star

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Daimler Koch

FAST BREAK EDITOR
Kaia Mann

PHOTO EDITOR
Alejandro Rafael

OPINION EDITOR
Rosemary Villalonga

NEWS EDITOR
Mariam Mkrichian

VALLEY LIFE EDITOR
Gabriela Martinez

SPORTS EDITOR
Alejandro Garcia

STAFF WRITERS

Aaron Goldsmith
Alejandro Garcia
Alina Weinstein
Amanda Chaves
Gabriela Martinez
Gabriel Gomez
Hermes Padilla
Isaac Abarca
Mariam Mkrichian
Rosemary Villalonga
Trinity Penny

Art and PHOTO

Aiden Jimenez
Arthur Vartanian
Brian Griffin
Estefani Herrera Alvarado
Isabel Sol
Lourdes Rosales Lepe
Mara Klein
Matthew Mejia Martinez
Shane Hurley

ADVISORS

Bill Dauber
Brian Paumier

GOT A LETTER TO THE EDITOR?

Letters to the editor can be submitted online at www.valleystarnews.com. Letters must be limited to 300 words and may be edited for content. Full name and contact information must be supplied in order for letters to be printed.

VALLEY VIEW | What do you do for lunch or dinner on campus?

Text by Daimler Koch

Photos by Alejandro Garcia



“Honestly, I just grab snacks from the MESA Center, or from the Unity Center, and I very rarely go to the cafeteria. I also very rarely go to the cafeteria if I usually bring food from home or I eat at home.”

-Zoe Nguyen, biology major



“On campus, sometimes after class, I’ll go to the cafeteria, while I get some sushi. I usually eat at home, but sometimes I treat myself.”

-Andrew Abilevich, nursing major



“For lunch? I usually go to the cafeteria with my friends, because they’re on campus around the same time. My favorite thing to get is the chicken and waffles, no doubt. Best dish on there.”

-Juan Valdez, psychology major



“For lunch sometimes after class, I go to the cafeteria, and I usually just get the grab and go items. I haven’t gotten anything cooked from the cafeteria yet. I usually go on a Wednesday or something.”

-August Edwards, art major

SPORTS

It was a tale of different teams over Valley’s last two games

After Valley pitches a shutout against Compton, Victory Valley scored 79 points against the Monarch defense.



Alejandro Rafael for the Valley Star

Monarch defenders Jace Andrews (28), Alexander Johnson (6) and Deshawn Malone (21) slam down Compton wide receiver who was trying to advance the ball. The Monarchs held the Coyotes to 113 yards of total offense during the Homecoming game.

Shane Hurley,
Staff Writer

After smashing Compton College 53-0 earlier this month in a homecoming celebration, Valley College found itself on the wrong side of a lopsided score. The Victory Valley Rams torched the visiting Monarchs 79-29 Saturday, dropping their season’s record to 2-5. The numbers of the game favored the Rams as the team amassed 396 passing yards and 359 rushing yards for a total of 755 yards. By the end of the half, the Monarchs were down 38-6. The Rams scored at least two touchdowns in each quarter and dropped the Monarchs to a 2-5 record on the season. The one-sided game came off the heels of a big victory for the Monarchs who defeated

Compton on Oct. 9 during Valley’s Homecoming game. Coming into the matchup with only one win, the Monarchs gave the home crowd something to cheer about early. On the opening drive, quarterback Austin Morville found the end zone on a 30-yard rushing touchdown, putting Valley up 6-0. The Monarchs kept the pressure on, extending its lead to 9-0 with a 24-yard field goal by Jesus Rodriguez midway through the first quarter. Compton’s offense struggled to find rhythm, failing to cross midfield during the first quarter. Meanwhile, Valley’s defense fed off the crowd’s

energy, highlighted by a big hit at the 3:38 mark that sent the stands into an uproar. With less than a minute remaining in the opening quarter, quarterback Reilly Brousseau connected with Kyle Smith Jr. for a passing touchdown, though a failed two point conversion left the score at 15-0 after one. The second quarter continued Valley’s dominance. A

Compton fumble on their first possession gave the Monarchs prime field position, and two plays later, K’Shaun White punched in another rushing touchdown from 71-yards out to make it 22-0. Moments later, linebacker Deshawn Malone intercepted a pass, setting up another short field. By halftime, Valley had poured on three more touch-

downs, including a misdirection run and a deep passing strike to take a 36-0 lead. Compton’s frustration showed through multiple personal foul penalties, while sideline arguments reflected the team’s morale. “Our guys worked hard,” head coach Lester Towns said. “They work their butts off, and our record doesn’t reflect how hard they work, and the effort they are putting in.” The Monarchs did not let up after the break. On the first drive of the third quarter, White broke free for his second rushing touchdown of the night, extending the lead to 43-0. After another defensive stop

deep in Compton territory, Valley capitalized with a quick passing score from Morville, pushing the score to 50-0. A late field goal in the third capped Valley’s scoring at 53-0, and Compton missed a red zone attempt that would have spoiled the shutout. With the score out of reach, both teams agreed to shorten the fourth quarter to five minutes. As one Valley player shouted after a long touchdown, “That was free as hell!” a fitting summary for a night when everything came easy for the Monarchs. The Monarchs will attempt to recapture their winning ways as the team travels to Antelope Valley Saturday on Saturday for a 12 p.m. kickoff.

“Our guys worked hard. They work their butts off, and our record doesn’t reflect how hard they work, and the effort they are putting in.”

- Coach Towns



Isabel Sol for the Valley Star



Isabel Sol for the Valley Star



Estefani Herrera for the Valley Star

(Top) Erik Grigoryan Victoria Tellez were crowned Homecoming king and queen. Grigoryan is a member of the ASU and Tellez is the president of the Volleyball Club. (Middle) Valley’s Cheer club practicing on the 50 yard line. From left to right stands Sonya Avila, Claudia Plantins, Sebastian Torres, Maya Vickers, Alondra Fregoso, and Emma Funston. (Bottom) Valley College instructor and former football coach Jimmy Sims plays the national anthem before the Monarchs Homecoming match against Compton.

The Monarchs Looking for next conference win

Women’s soccer hopes to duplicate success of preseason as they head to Bakersfield for the next match.

Alejandro Garcia,
Sports Editor

After coming off of what was a promising win against the reigning champs, Santa Monica on their own turf, the Monarchs are once again on the downside of things after dropping another match this time drawing against College of the Canyons. Another tough loss was avoided this season by the Monarchs as they settled for a draw as they faced off the Cougars this past Friday October 17 marking the first draw of the season. Valley midfielder Halley Mallas kicked off the scoresheet at 28:43 which put the monarchs up 1-0 at the half which remained scoreless until 54:41 where CoC forward Bailey Williamson leveled up the match ending at 1-1. Valley which currently stands at a 7-7-1 overall record but a rough 2-4-1 conference record nears its first full month of the season as they look to bounce back for the next half after a rough start. The Monarchs had a strong showing for their preseason matches finishing up with a solid and promising 5-3 record. Conference play later started where the fierce flare in the Monarchs seemed to burn out. Dropping their first three conference games on the road in the span of a week from September 26, 30, and October 3rd to Citrus (2-0), Bakersfield (2-1), and West LA (3-0). This put the Monarchs on thin ice as they once again started another season losing streak to the same teams as they did during the 24/25 season. Not all hope was lost as they then faced Glendale which ended in a swift 5-1 win in favor of the Monarchs in a must needed win to pick up the team morale and reignite that fire again. The next game went back to the old ways as they dropped yet another game this time to Antelope Valley on October 10 on another nailbiter with the final score of 1-0 after a faulty own goal on the Monarchs side. Going into a tough match away at Santa Monica, the

narchs had a strong showing for their preseason matches finishing up with a solid and promising 5-3 record. Conference play later started where the fierce flare in the Monarchs seemed to burn out. Dropping their first three conference games on the road in the span of a week from September 26, 30, and October 3rd to Citrus (2-0), Bakersfield (2-1), and West LA (3-0). This put the Monarchs on thin ice as they once again started another season losing streak to the same teams as they did during the 24/25 season. Not all hope was lost as they then faced Glendale which ended in a swift 5-1 win in favor of the Monarchs in a must needed win to pick up the team morale and reignite that fire again. The next game went back to the old ways as they dropped yet another game this time to Antelope Valley on October 10 on another nailbiter with the final score of 1-0 after a faulty own goal on the Monarchs side. Going into a tough match away at Santa Monica, the

Corsairs are the reigning champs of the division after finishing their championship run at a dominant record of 8-3-0 for the 24/25 season. The Corsairs put up 12 goals to none against the Monarch last season across 2 games, 5-0 and 7-0 in both matches. With a much different and fresh Monarch roster, there was nothing to lose as the Monarchs showed up and got the job done. The final score against the current champs was 1-0 after a quick goal from Hazel Caro started off the fight. This marked the second conference win of the season for the Monarchs but then dropped points the following game after a draw, leaving their record at 2-4-1 for their first stretch of the season. The Monarchs are now on set on their next 4 matches to finish off the first full month of the conference. They once again face off Citrus this time at home on Tuesday October 21st, kick off at 4:00 pm.



Isabel Sol for the Valley Star

The Monarchs dropped their third-straight game against the West LA Wildcats, 3-0 on Oct. 3. The offense took 12 shots on goal but could not get a shot past keeper Janelle Guerrero.