

The VACC Resets its Timeline

California-based contractor takes on the \$100+ million building with an eye on a June 2025 completion date.



Daniel Padilla for the Valley Star

After the LACCD fired Pinner Construction on March 8, the Valley Academic and Cultural Center has laid dormant for six months. Photo taken Sept. 9.



Daniel Padilla for the Valley Star

The district recently hired Amoroso Construction to complete the construction project by the end of the school year.

Kaia Mann, Editor-in-chief

The LACCD recently hired a new contractor to complete the Valley Academic and Cultural Center, a project that has been on hold for the past six months. The district fired Pinner Construction on March 8, and recently hired Amoroso, with the expectation that the California-based company will finish the eight-year project by June 2025. President Barry Gribbons stated that Amoroso will be working “two shifts to complete the project as quickly as possible.” The VACC started as an idea to improve the arts, media and design facilities on campus, with the intention of uniting multiple departments to foster a more collaborative learning environment. The VACC will provide students and faculty with new and improved classrooms, study areas, a state-of-the-art newsroom, and a fully equipped radio station. Among the most notable enhancements is the theater department’s expansion, which will feature four new theaters, including a 450-seat mainstage and an outdoor amphitheater for both theater and music performances. However, the construction timeline has now stretched over four times its initial estimate, leaving some students and faculty without proper facilities. While the theater is slated to get the biggest renovation, they are also left with the least in the meantime, since they have no official rehearsal or performance space. “We’re like these nomads that move around from building to building,” said Kurt Swick, a theater major at Valley, when asked about the VACC construction in a previous article. “Do I sometimes feel very cheated? Yeah, ‘cause it’s not fair. But my philosophy is that our theater department is about the people, not the building.” With an original budget of \$78.5 million, the VACC has now cost taxpayers over \$100 million in total. After terminating Pinner, the costs are still rising with the firm filing an over \$35 million lawsuit against the LACCD claiming wrongful termination. The vacant position was

opened up to bids from eligible companies that were evaluated based on the bidder’s qualifications and pricing. Amoroso has completed over 80 construction projects across education, healthcare, and commercial sectors. They have worked with LACCD in the past, completing the DaVinci Hall and Student Union buildings for LA City College. “I’m excited to work with Amoroso and see the project completed,” Gribbons said. “I know our departments are all excited about moving in as well.” The VACC project was initially introduced in 2002, yet construction began in 2016. As students and faculty roll into the fall 2024 semester, Amoroso will expedite construction to finish the project as soon as possible. According to Pinner officials, 99.12 percent of the VACC has been completed. Without any work on the building for over half a year, it is up to Amoroso to complete the project. The Valley Star reached out to Build LACCD and Amoroso who both did not return emails.

Students Tune into the Debate

The former president and Vice President held their first debate in Philadelphia.

JC Rosa and Angel Silva, Staff Writers

The Democratic and Republican presidential candidates sparred in the first debate Tuesday night, vying for voters for the 2024 presidential election in 54 days. For Valley students who tuned into the 90-minute debate between former President Donald Trump and Vice President Kamala Harris, the debate was the first preview into the visions both candidates have for their potential presidency. Film and television major Lucas Hobson said that Harris left the podium with the advantage, and said he feels like “America is trying to push Trump away.” However, the 21 year old said he’s not sure who will earn his vote. “Both candidates conveyed their messages, but Kamala had a stronger message than Trump,” said Hobson. “I have no preference,” said Hobson. “Both candidates are going to put us in the mud based on where America is going.”

Biology major Marco Rodriguez, 17, said he is leaning towards Harris because of her policies, but that “neither is the savior we need.” Kinesiology major Mina Leon, 28, was not enthusiastic about either candidate after learning about what they said. “Trump continues to blame immigrants for our problems,” said Leon. “Kamala was offering Band-Aid solutions for serious problems. They both support genocide.” “I guess I’m leaning more towards Kamala. As a default, not because I love her,” Leon added. For Margret Zaldana, 18, the choice was more clear-cut. “What I heard was that Trump was lying and Kamala made her points clear,” said Zaldana. “I’m leaning more towards Kamala because my family is more aligned with the Democratic party.” Nearly two-thirds of voters (63 percent) said that Harris outperformed Trump, according to a CNN flash poll published Sept. 11. According to the poll, most viewers that saw the debate said it did not

influence who they supported; although, Trump supporters were more likely to reconsider their support for their candidate than Harris supporters. In 2020, voters between the ages 18-44 made up 39.7 percent of total voters, with 16.5 percent of total voters between 18-29 and 23.2 percent of total voters 30-44, according to a report published by the US Census Bureau in February 2022. Over the past few semesters, Valley College has served as a voting center for the surrounding community and its students. According to the LA County Registrar recorder’s office, Valley is one of the most popular voting centers in the county. The cafeteria will be converted into a voting center, with poll booths replacing dining tables. Students, staff and community members can cast their votes in person from the day the voting center opens until Election Day on Nov. 5. The full list of voting centers in Los Angeles County will be available at locator.lavote.gov approximately 30-40 days before Election Day.



Taylor Cowhey for the Valley Star

Kaia Mann, Editor-in-chief

Los Angeles reached triple digits for several days starting last Friday, presenting an unexpected and record-breaking heatwave for residents. Valley students and faculty were amongst those affected with the high-reaching 114 degree weather in Valley Glen.

To combat the September heatwave, football practice was limited to one hour while softball practice was canceled, and the women’s soccer game was postponed from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Additionally, sport uniforms were altered to adjust to the heat across the board (Top photo).

Due to the excessive heat, the contents of a dump truck in front of the faculty staff parking lot at Valley caught on fire on Sept. 4. While the smoke from the fire caused alarms to go off across campus, it was quickly contained by firefighters (Bottom photo).



Emilio Godínez for the Valley Star

As the election approaches, the campus has served as a voting center for students, faculty, and community members. This site is one of the most popular voting centers in the Valley.



Daniel Padilla for the Valley Star

Chancellor Steps Down

Kaia Mann, Editor-in-chief

LACCD Chancellor Francisco Rodriguez resigned after over a decade of service with Los Angeles community colleges effective Nov. 2, following concerns about his role in district-wide financial and discrimination issues. Rodriguez stated his retirement from the position is due to his need to spend time with his family and assist his father with health issues. However, this resignation comes on the heels of a 29 to 0 vote of no confidence from the LACCD Academic Senate which took place in May. This no-confidence vote follows a letter that was sent to the board from Angela C. Echeverri, president of the District Academic Senate on Nov. 15, 2023, detailing growing concerns over the mishandling of sexual assault and discrimination cases within the district as well as financial irregularities. This letter specifically cites Los Angeles Southwest English professor, Sabrena Turner-Odom’s prolonged legal battle regarding sexual harassment allegations against Howard Irvin, the former vice-president of the school in 2017. Despite her complaints to college officials and a formal Title IX grievance, it wasn’t until 2022 that the case was sent to court in which Turner-Odom resulted in a \$10 million jury verdict in her favor. The Academic Senate’s letter highlighted the district’s handling of Irvin’s procurement irregularities as well as the lack of transparency in internal investigations within the board. It also discussed how these issues affect the district’s finances, operations, and students and staff. According to the official resolution of no confidence, the district is still in legal battles involving LA Southwest and Turner-Odom, and there are several other high-profile cases alleging serious Title IX violations by district officials that are currently in various stages of litigation. The vote of no confidence, which was supported by at least five local academic senates (including City, East, Pierce, Southwest, and West colleges) highlighted several “financial and procurement irregularities” within the district under Chancellor Rodriguez. These issues include legal costs, potential mismanagement of funds, and problems related to transparency, fairness, and accountability. Before being appointed Chancellor in 2014, Rodriguez served as the president in the MiraCosta Community College District and president at Cosumnes River College. In his time as chancellor, Rodriguez was able to increase state funding, expand racial diversity for students and faculty, and spearhead policies for the success of minority students—specifically Black and Latino men. The district has yet to comment on who is set to take over as LACCD Chancellor.



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VALLEY LIFE

Valley Theatre Ditches Monarch Hall for Theatre 68

The Valley Theatre Department has embraced its new fall residency at the Emerson Theatre in the Theatre 68 Arts Complex.

Kaia Mann,
Editor-in-chief

Valley's theatre department has begun a residency at the Emerson Theatre in the Theatre 68 Arts Complex through 2025 while awaiting the completion of the Valley Arts and Cultural Center. "I am really excited about getting students into a space where they can interact with professional actors and make those contacts," said Jennifer Read, chair of the theatre department. "I'm excited about being back in a real theatre." Under this new arrangement, all technical classes and performances will be held at Emerson, while acting, musical theatre, and introductory courses will continue on campus in Administration 2. This isn't the first time LACCD colleges have outsourced spaces for their theatre departments, but this is a first for Valley. Although there have been off-campus performances in the past, this shift to Emerson, just over three miles from campus on Lankershim Boulevard, represents a more strategic relocation. "We're trying to incorpo-

rate a form of partnership with Theatre 68, so that students could possibly do an internship there," said Read. "There are lots of possibilities, and getting into a real space at this point versus Monarch Hall is very exciting." The Theatre 68 Arts Complex, in the heart of the North Hollywood theatre scene, has been a cultural cornerstone for over 23 years and has hosted a diverse range of plays and performances. The Emerson Theatre, one of the stages within the complex, seats around 50 people, leading the fall productions to increase the number of performances to accommodate for the limited space. While this solution works now, the VACC still promises the department new classrooms, greenrooms, a horseshoe theatre, an amphitheatre, and a main stage. However, construction delays and legal issues regarding the center have left the department without a dedicated performance or rehearsal space for the past several years. Trying to put on a show in a space not meant for it has proved difficult for the department. There have been audio difficulties and space constraints that affect the quality

of performances. Theatre faculty and students have had to adapt their projects to fit their less than ideal situation with limited resources. "As a freshman incoming, I looked at LAVC and saw that they have good, amazing programs and then I saw the theatre program and they were always moving," said film and theatre major Luis Bernal. "I'd come to a show and it would be in a different location." The residency at Theatre 68 gives students a functioning theatrical space to rehearse and perform, and it also expands their audience past just friends and family and to other Los Angeles theatregoers. "I'm glad we're going to have a space that is more suited to our needs," said anthropology major Sarah Glickfeld when asked about the move during auditions for the upcoming fall production of "Night of the Living Dead." "It's a little bit inconvenient that it's out of the way, but I'd prefer that to not having an adequate space," she continued. "It feels more real, it feels more official, it's like we're actually being considered."



Carson Tarabochia-Martin for the Valley Star

A sign on Theatre 68's box office window reads, "Valley Theatre and Dance, please enter through the back."



Daniel Padilla for the Valley Star

Professor Matthew McCray calls a student for an audition in the Admin 2 building as the displaced theatre department waits for the VACC building to be completed.



Daniel Padilla for the Valley Star

Several students rehearse their lines as they wait to audition for the newest fall production: "Night of the Living Dead." Performances run from Nov. 8-16 in North Hollywood.

Valley College Uses ID System to Battle Enrollment Bots

The LACCD requires new students at its nine campuses to verify their identity in order to enroll in classes.

Hillary Van Hoose,
Copy Editor

Students beginning classes this semester might be surprised to learn that some of their classmates could be bots or fraudulent enrollments, but Valley College and LACCD are finding new ways to battle the bots. Such steps have become necessary because, along with the boom of availability for online and hybrid classes that benefited remote learners during the beginning of the pandemic, there also came a wave of scammers seeking to defraud taxpayers of millions of dollars worth of COVID-19 relief grants and other financial aid. College officials have suggested that LACCD was targeted partly because the same

open enrollment system and lack of application fee that makes education more accessible for real students also made it easier for bots to enroll and apply for financial aid. During a campus update meeting, President Barry Gribbons described what steps Valley is taking to prevent this kind of cyber-crime. "We have implemented a lot of procedural changes in the last month district-wide, and many folks had concerns about these procedures because they are quite restrictive, and now we make every new student who didn't go through ID.me and who's not part of a special program or a special population get verified live in-person or through Cranium Cafe, showing identification," said Gribbons. The Los Angeles Times reported in 2021 that

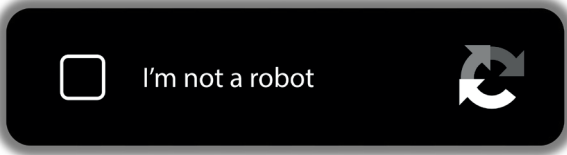
"three-quarters of [bot] traffic was caught by new software called Imperva Advanced Bot Protection" according to Valerie Lundy-Wagner, interim vice chancellor of digital innovation and infrastruc-

ture. Despite such measures, reports obtained by CalMatters showed that "between September 2021 and January 2024, [California community] colleges received roughly 900,000 fraudulent college applications and gave frauds-

ters more than \$5 million in federal aid, as well as nearly \$1.5 million in state and local aid." The continuing uptick in bot activity provoked increased safeguards by LACCD officials. "That's quite a bit of chan-

students, that district-wide we implemented that." Taking up seats in classes and stealing financial aid aren't the only havoc bots are wreaking either. Colleges base decisions about which classes and sections to offer, and funding for diversity initiatives, upon the data collected from enrollment – numbers that get skewed by bots and fake enrollments. Child development major Kendra Strickland said her communications instructor was taking safeguards to make sure the students were real. She said her online welcome post from the instructor read, "I will remove any students that appear to abuse plagiarism or any fake students that are artificial intelligence. If you are red-flagged, you will be requested to join an immediate Zoom

meeting to present your Valley ID for visual verification." Although enrollment numbers for this semester are still changing daily, Gribbons pointed out some of the notable demographics skewed by bot enrollment that are visible in current weekly reports. "District-wide, the number of white students was the biggest numeric drop [from last year], down 1600 students," said Gribbons. "I think that might reflect some bot activity the previous year [...] because we've observed the past six months, when we saw a surge in fraudulent students, that for some reason the vast majority indicated that they were white as well as older. And you can see that, also with the district, over-25 accounts for about 1,700 of the enrollment drop."



ge, and it's an extra obstacle for our students," Gribbons said, "but in the late spring and early summer we saw such a surge, tens of thousands of fraudulent students trying to get into the district and taking up seats from real

ASU's Fall Initiatives Aim to Boost Student Participation

After a long slumber, the ASU brings back the Lions Den which features foosball, pool and video games for students to enjoy.



Artavazd Ovakimyan

Newly selected Commissioner of Publicity and Social Media, Paola Guzman.

JC Rosa,
Staff Writer

As the Fall 2024 semester begins, the Associated Student Union at Valley College is looking forward to involving students in campus life, as well as making sure they feel heard. ASU is launching initiatives designed to draw students out of the classroom and into the heart of the campus with a renewed focus on community and student advocacy. From social events to meetings on pressing issues, ASU leaders are eager to create platforms where students can both enjoy their college experience and have a say in shaping it. According to the ASU bylaws, which can be found on Valley's website under the student life tab, ASU strives to recognize and fulfill the needs of students in seeking fair and equal representation for all. "We are a bridge between

the college and the students," said ASU's Commissioner of Publicity and Social Media Paola Guzman. "We create events for people to enjoy more of the student life." With a semester of events in the works, students will have opportunities to meet fellow students. Events will be posted on the ASU Instagram page, @lavcasu, on flyers in buildings around campus, and on Valley's website. Alina Lysak, ASU's commissioner of student life, is looking forward to homecoming weekend on Nov. 9. "I'm really excited about homecoming," Lysak said. "It's Valley's 75-year anniversary, so I want to make it special." One event to keep a lookout for is The National Student Government Summit in Washington, D.C. from Oct. 10 to Oct. 13. This event is aimed to help improve student government by providing training workshops and brainstorming roundtables. There will also be guest speakers

who have been part of their student government at their respective schools. The conference also allows students enough time to go sightseeing in Washington, D.C. after the training. Students can register for this event on the Valley Instagram page. A feature that ASU brought back this year is the Lion's Den, a game room on the second floor of the Student Union Building. It offers students a space to play games with friends such as billiards, foosball, Nintendo Switch games, and board games. In addition to putting on events, ASU also holds Executive Council Meetings in the Skybox Conference Room every other Tuesday. These meetings are open for Valley students, offering a platform for their voices to be heard on issues they want addressed while helping them learn how to advocate for themselves and their community. Minutes from these meetings are posted in buildings

around campus, as well as on the Valley's website under the campus life tab. In order to participate in all the things ASU has to offer, students must pay a \$10 ASU fee. This fee covers students' entry to ASU events and meetings, as well as students' entrance to clubs on campus. As the Fall 2024 semester kicks off, the Associated Student Union is poised to enhance campus life by offering numerous opportunities for student engagement and ensuring that every student's voice is valued. By participating in events and attending meetings, students can actively shape their college experience and ensure their voices are heard in the decisions that affect their academic and social lives. "Any needs that students might have, we are there for them," Guzman said.

OPINION

The Weird Way the Harris-Walz Campaign Will Win

The memes surrounding the Democratic ticket are a gold mine of untapped potential for Kamala and Walz to leverage.

Daimler Koch,
Online Editor

In the days of the not-so-distant past, Democratic and moderate voters were in a pit of despair. Their choices for president did not seem appealing: a rather orange, rant-raving felon who was increasingly picking up steam among Republicans, or a geriatric old man who could barely seem to string a list of words together into a coherent sentence. But then, in a strangely unpredictable turn of events, the latter dropped out of the race, and Vice President Kamala Harris swooped in to take his place. Thunderous applause and a wave of joy welcomed her, thanks in no small part to a uniquely Gen Z solution: memes. A solution so unique, in fact, that it may end up helping Harris and her running mate, Governor Tim Walz, push across the finish line first in November. The intertwining of memes with politics is nothing new, per se, which range from the melancholic to the downright negative – which is why I was initially surprised by the emphatic waves of enthusiasm towards Harris in the forms of “brat summer” and “coconut-pilled.” In other words, for those of you too out of the loop to understand: among Gen Z, Kamala Harris has been

turned into a full-blown meme over social media. The history of this stretches back to June 7, 2024, when the artist Charli XCX dropped her album “brat,” the focus of which is on being genuine and true to yourself. The album quickly became an online sensation; people began having “brat summers” and changing profile pictures to the same shade of green on the album cover in order to celebrate this newly discovered euphoria. Kamala didn’t become involved until a month and a half later, when Charli XCX

posted on X that “kamala IS brat.” People leapt on the meme almost immediately. That’s what Kamala is, after all. The way she’s willing to laugh, talk and dance at a moment’s notice speaks volumes about her willingness to be genuine, making her a perfect candidate for “brat summer.”

Oh, yeah, and her unforgettable lines, such as “I love Venn diagrams” and “You think you just fell out of a coconut tree?” have become instant one-liners, already beloved among her younger fanbase. Walz hasn’t been left behind. He, too, exudes authenticity, with his folksy, Midwestern dad vibes and his fondness for calling Trump and JD Vance “weird” becoming fodder for, yes, more memes across social media platforms. This trend is more significant than it may initially seem. Memes are especially

popular among younger people, of course – and young voters have historically been a difficult portion of the population to capture at the polls. If the Harris-Walz campaign leans into the memes sprouting around them and make them an integral part of their campaign, they could claim a large portion of Gen Z for themselves, and keep them out of the Republicans’ hands. So far, this strategy appears to be working. After the wave of memes that was “brat summer” for Harris and “weird” for Walz, the Democratic ticket has boosted in popularity among voters, according to an ABC News/Washington Post poll released on August 18, 2024. In addition, their combined genuinity is the perfect answer to the Republican ticket, whose track record of 34 criminal charges and needless hate on “childless cat ladies” makes it seem extremely insecure and less credible than the Democratic ticket. If Harris continues to lead with the memes, she can maintain that lead over Donald Trump come election day and become the antidote to lies, corruption and dictatorship. And she’ll perform a miracle that few political candidates today across the country can perform: getting the younger generations to run to the polls.



Photo illustration by Sydne Santiago and Jason Shells

Financial Aid Reinforces Systemic Classism

The majority of college students have to finance their education through unfair lending options.

Hillary Van Hoose,
Copy Editor

Half of LACCD’s students seek to transfer, but 50 to 62 percent are also low-income, food insecure and/or housing insecure, and 19 percent even identify as homeless, according to LACCD’s Fast Facts document. With stats like these, how do Valley students earn an education? About 50 percent of LACCD students receive fee waivers and 23 percent are awarded Pell grants. What about students who want careers requiring master’s or doctoral degrees, you may ask? Their financial aid options are largely limited to unsubsidized private or federal loans, which have high interest rates, fewer consumer protections, and can begin accruing interest while students are still in school. In fact, those with master’s degrees carry an average debt of \$83,651 and those with doctorates carry \$134,797, according to Bankrate. That means, according to Brook-

ings, that graduate students take on more than half of all student loan debt despite accounting for only one-quarter of student loan borrowers. This lack of non-predatory financial aid choices for grad school forces students to either stop at the undergrad level or to finance their education through debt, which makes housing, medical, and food stability fragile for students after graduation, and often for the rest of their lives. It also makes repaying loans an impossibility for the vast numbers of people who don’t find gainful employment after graduation. By the way, “gainful employment” does not mean working minimum wage internships and assistant jobs for the next 10 to 15 years. If this is all that the majority of grads from a given college or university program can get with their degrees, no matter how prestigiously the institution might be ranked, it’s a scam. The U.S. Department of Education defines the term “gainful employment” to mean that, with-

in four years after graduation, your job pays you enough to have a “debt-to-earnings ratio of less than 20% of discretionary income or less than 8% of total income” based upon the “relationship between median student loan debt and average annual earnings” of those who have previously graduated from the same program at the same school. Why is it so hard for low-income populations to repay their loans? For one thing, low-income students borrow more in the first place. While the Department of Education says that more than 43 million Americans hold student loan debt, an analysis by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau shows that 90 percent of students identifying as African American and 72 percent identifying as Latino take out loans to pay for their education. Additionally, the St. Louis Federal Reserve Bank estimates that 47 percent of women hold student loan debt, compared with 40 percent of men. Also, earning an edu-

cation does not prevent bias-based wage gaps. A report by the BLS (Bureau of Labor Statistics) shows that women, racial minorities, and disabled graduates earn significantly less than others. On top of the BLS and Census reporting that people with disabilities have greater difficulty obtaining full-time employment and earn far less than non-disabled workers, they also need to earn what the National Disability Institute calculates as 28 percent more income per year just to stay alive. This combination of compulsory debt and discrimination creates a bottleneck on high-earning professions by discouraging or preventing students from underserved communities from earning degrees that allow them to enter such professions, and punishing those who do. In short, predatory student loans keep low-income and historically oppressed populations from using education to climb out of poverty, and pushes middle-class families into poverty.

With tuition and fees alone increasing by 6 to 8 percent annually in the past 20 years, according to U.S. News & World Report, something needs to change. But what? Providing graduate students the same financial aid options available to undergraduates would be a good start. Then again, organizations like the Brookings Institute and politicians like Bernie Sanders have advocated making higher education free for students and canceling existing loan debts. Extreme? Not when you consider that free higher education for all was part of California’s Master Plan all along.



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VALLEY VIEW | What are you doing to beat the heat?

Text by Alex Diaz
Photos by Taylor Cowhey



“It’s really hot. I’ve been drinking more water since I’m on campus often.”

-Magaly Campos, Spanish major



“It’s so hot like I can’t deal with it. I’ve been drinking water and trying my best to stay inside.”

-Charissa Belle Domingo, Nursing major



“I’ve lived in California all my life. At this point, I am used to it, but it’s been getting ridiculous. I have my water with me at all times.”

-Carlos Cata, Studio Arts major



“It’s f***** hot. I don’t want to get sunburnt, so I’m wearing a longsleeve.”

-Edgar Recinos, Business major

SPORTS

Monarchs Struggle in Season-Opening Loss Against Panthers

Chaffey held Valley scoreless for three quarters, as the home team entered the final quarter with a 20 point lead.



Hui Wang for the Valley Star

(Top) Valley player Gavin Goulette (4) is tackled by Chaffey football players. (Bottom) Linebacker Samuel Carbajal (55) is blocked by Nathan Rodriguez (67) from Chaffey College.

JC Rosa,
Staff Writer

In the season opener on Saturday, Chaffey’s command of the first three quarters proved to be too much for the Monarchs to overcome, ultimately suffering a 23-13 defeat. “To come out and not get the win, it’s tough,” said Head Coach Lester Towns. “I’ve got to be proud of them, they worked their butts off and they didn’t quit.” Chaffey dominated the first half of play, torching Valley’s defense with 178 yards through the air and 89 yards rushing yards. Their execution in the first half netted them a touchdown through the air and on the ground. On the defensive end, Chaffey was able to stymie the Monarchs offense as Valley was only able to gain 30 yards on offense. Chaffey put constant pressure on Valley’s quarterbacks, totaling nine sacks between both of the Monarch’s quarterbacks, four of which came in the first half. “Chaffey was bringing pressure to our offensive line, so our quarterbacks didn’t have time to stand in the pocket and throw the ball,” Coach Towns said when asked about the lack of offensive consistency. “What I’m not happy with is the quarterback taking a sack, they should be getting the ball out of their hands.” The Monarchs struggled to make adjustments going into the third quarter, as Chaffey continued to control the game, scoring another touchdown, making the score 20-0 through three quarters. Valley turned up the intensity late in the game, scoring both of their touchdowns in the fourth quarter. Starting

quarterback Daryus Warren scored on a run-pass option, running 14 yards for the touchdown. Later, Gavin Goulette connected with receiver K’Shaun White for a 20-yard touchdown pass. On the defensive end, Valley picked up the intensity in the fourth quarter, holding their opponent to just three points in the quarter. “We picked it up, and I’m glad we did,” Warren said when asked about the offensive surge in the second half. “We gave it our all, but the results didn’t come our way.” The Monarchs look to address their shortcomings going into their home opener against Compton at 6 p.m. on Saturday. “We have to get better day by day,” said defensive back Jorge Hernandez. “We have to bring it to Compton.”



Hui Wang for the Valley Star

Valley College Battles Santa Ana College to a 1-1 Tie.

The Monarchs start the season with a 3-0-1 mark using a balanced attack to stay undefeated.

JC Rosa,
Staff Writer

The Valley College women’s soccer team took a three-game winning streak into Tuesday’s home contest against Santa Ana College that ended in a 1-1 tie. The Monarchs remain undefeated thanks to a defense that allowed seven shots on goal with keeper Nina Diaz stopping six of those shots. The Monarch’s defense kept the ball on the edges, limiting the Dons’ time of possession. “The mentality coming into the game was to control the middle of the field,” said Monarch midfielder Amanda Rumack. “I figured if we could shut down the middle that would help us out a lot.” On the offensive side, Valley took six shots on goal, with forward Desiree Monge converting in the 36 minute, giving the Monarchs a 1-0 lead. The Dons tied the game in the 45 minute when Karen Juarez scored on an assist from Tiffany Rodriguez. “We hold each other accountable,” said Monge. “When we make mistakes we try to fix it, together, as a team.” In the team’s first three games, Valley dispatched City College, Victor Valley and Imperial Valley colleges. The team scored nine goals while only giving up four across the first three matches. “This team is a gritty group who all fight for every minute on the pitch,” said Head Coach Jonathan Hoarst. “At the end of the day, you need a group that’s going to go out there and fight for each other, and fortunately, that’s what I have this year.” In their first game against City College, the Monarchs took control early, scoring 2 goals in the first 20 minutes of the contest. Early in the second half, Valley capital-



Luis Gonzalez for the Valley Star

Valley freshman defender Samantha Valencia sets up to send a long pass at Monarch Stadium against Santa Ana College.

zed on their momentum, scoring a goal in the 51 minute of the game. On the defensive end, the Monarchs shut down City College’s offense, allowing only one goal, making the final score 3-1. Against Victor Valley, the Monarchs won a close contest 2-1. The match was marked by a strong defensive effort from freshman goalkeeper Diaz, who saved 13 of the 14 shots on goal. “I just like to be there for my teammates,” said Diaz. “I don’t want to let anyo-

ne down. I want to show that I’m here to work hard and show it on the field.” In their match against Imperial Valley, the Monarchs showcased their offense. The team’s attacking line was effective, as their four goals were scored by three different players, with two of the goals coming off assists. The Monarchs ended the game with 4-2 win. The undefeated Monarchs will host Oxnard College at home tomorrow with a 4 p.m. start.

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Upcoming Games

- September 13-14**
Men’s Waterpolo
Golden West Tournament
@ 9:50 p.m.
- September 13**
Women’s Soccer vs.
Oxnard College
at Monarch Stadium @
4 p.m.
- September 14**
Women’s Waterpolo
11th Valley College Monarchs Mini Tournament
@ 9 a.m.
- September 14**
Valley Football vs.
Compton
Home Opener @ 6 p.m.
- September 19**
Men’s Waterpolo vs.
Cypress
Home @ 3 p.m.
- September 19**
Women’s Waterpolo vs.
Cypress
Home @ 4:15
- September 20-21**
Men’s Waterpolo
Mt. Sac Tournament @
1 p.m.
- September 20**
Women’s Soccer vs. Allan
Hancock
at Monarch Stadium @
4 p.m.
- September 21**
Valley Football vs. Victor
Valley
at Monarch Stadium @
6 p.m.
- September 24**
Women’s Soccer
at Cuesta @ 4 p.m.
- September 25**
Women’s Waterpolo
at Crafton Hills @ 3 p.m.
- September 27**
Women’s Waterpolo
Golden West mini-tournament @ 9:50 a.m.
- September 28**
Valley Football
at West LA @ 1 p.m.