



VALLEY LIFE: UMOJA VILLAGE
THE UMOJA VILLAGE CELEBRATED ITS OFFICIAL OPENING IN CAMPUS CENTER.



SPORTS: PLAYOFFS AHEAD
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL IS CURRENTLY RANKED THIRD IN CONFERENCE.

Sheriffs arrest campus taggers

The campus parking structure has been a hot-spot for crime this semester.

ISAAC DEKTOR
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Valley College sheriff's department recently arrested two Grant High School students for defacing the parking structure.

Vandals scrawled profanities and graphic images on the third floor of the northeast end of the parking structure. Valley's sheriff's department forwarded photos from the parking structure's security cameras of the suspects to the Los Angeles School Police Department. On Monday morning, the juveniles who defaced the parking structure, two Grant High School students, were arrested for misdemeanors. Taggers hit the same Valley parking structure twice in the past two weeks.

"In the past two months, there have been hit-and-miss incidents," said Deputy Butler, who originally suspected students from Jack London Continuation High School. "They must have been watching me inside a vehicle and once I left, that's when the graffiti happened. That's my guess."

Defacing property that is not one's own is charged as vandalism in the California Penal code and is punished based on the value of the property. Both high school students were charged with misdemeanors on Monday.

Two days after the parking structure was tagged, the LACCD alerted students about an incident near the parking structure at Valley College involving two young men exhibiting threatening behavior while in possession of a concealed firearm.

The victim, whose identity is being kept anonymous, initially reported that the incident occurred inside the parking structure. Campus deputies searched the structure within minutes of



GRIFFIN O'ROURKE | VALLEY STAR

TAGGED- The third story of the parking garage at Los Angeles Valley College was tagged with vulgar graffiti a week ago. Two students from Grant High School were arrested and charged with misdemeanors for vandalizing public property.

the report, but could not find anyone matching the description.

"Once we reviewed video camera footage, we came to find out that it actually occurred across the street, over on the other side of the sidewalk, on Ethel," said Butler.

The crime now falls under the LAPD's jurisdiction.

"A report that we wrote will go as a courtesy report to them to do the follow up investigation," said Butler. According to the sheriff's

department, the two high school students who were arrested for tagging the parking structure are not suspects in the investigation into the weapons law violation.

A "timely warning crime alert" was sent out after 9 p.m. to inform students of the "weapons law violation," which was reported at 12:17 p.m.

The email described the incident as "two male suspects brandishing a firearm, exhibiting gang-related gestures, and a pattern of conduct or a com-

bination of conduct and statements reasonably intended to convey to the victim an implied threat of imminent harm."

According to the sheriff's department, a marked squad car will remain stationed outside of the parking structure. However, the patrol has been notably absent throughout the week.

- With contributions from Asher Miles

CRIME UPDATE

The Theater Arts building was targeted for burglary and vandalism on Tuesday according to the reports from Valley's Sheriff department. No equipment was stolen during the break-in.

This comes several years after the media arts storage shed was broken into and temporarily lived in.

ASU's spring spending

NATALIE METCALF
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

In the first ASU meeting of the Spring semester on Tuesday, the executive board passed eight finance motions, allocating \$17,550 toward student events.

These include \$9,000 allocated for ethnic and cultural events, \$3,000 earmarked for ASU board member events, \$250 for queer gamers night, \$1,800 for club day rentals, \$2,000 for leadership workshop completion gift and \$1,500 for graduation sashes. This semester, the student union has a spending budget of \$318, 465. Two of the agenda items dealt with a transfer of already allocated funds and an event name change.

ASU board member events for \$3,000 was requested by Monica Flores, the student union's advisor and counselor. The funds will be allocated towards future events with guest speakers who are hired under contract with the ASU.

"Having these funds set aside will help board members with their event planning, as funds will already be available," said ASU President Ani Ramazyan. "Students will benefit from these events by building great college memories."

Commissioner of Ethnic and Cultural Affairs Erik Portillo submitted a budget request for \$9,000. According to the budget request, the purpose of the funds is to have an accessible budget for future student events relating to ethnic and cultural topics. The money will be used towards, food, drinks, transportation and admissions expenses for currently planned events.

"I wouldn't have to go through the whole process of submitting a budget request, so it will be quicker to have those collaborations," said Portillo, about collaborating with Umoja Black Scholars and the Mosaic Village on campus.

The Women's Resource Fair, in coordination with Women's History Month, was on the list of events on the budget request. But Portillo canceled the event because of another event organized by Natalie Guerrero, the coordinator and counselor of the Rainbow Pride Center, called Spring Connect. During the meeting, the Spring Connect budget request for \$7,200 was postponed until the next meeting.

Queer gamers night for \$250 was approved and requested by Guerrero. The money will be allocated towards pizzas for the event. This will be a collaboration between ASU and the Mosaic Village. The event is planned for May.

The Memorial Day display was passed and amended from \$8,540 to \$5,000 in the finance committee meeting then rejected in the Executive Council Meeting. The board suggested the Veterans Resource Center use funds from their club account. The Veterans Club has \$7,000 in its club budget.

Payan court case on hold

The LACCD continues to argue unintentional discrimination of disabled students.

KATHARINE FORD
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

The latest Payan v. LACCD court hearing scheduled for last month was delayed until a date that is unknown at this time. The case, initially filed in the courts in 2016, accuses the district of violating the Americans with Disabilities Act and section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

The district is appealing the 2019 decision by a federal judge that ruled in favor of the students. Disagreeing with the courts' decisions, the district announced a plan to take their argument to the Supreme Court. After protests at the LACCD Board meeting in March 2022, the board decided against their plan and agreed to additional mediation sessions to resolve the dispute. However, mediation sessions from March 14, 2022, to May 16, 2022, failed to resolve the issue.

"They [LACCD] want to take it to the Supreme Court to have the Supreme Court strike down Title II Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the ADA," said plaintiff Roy Payan. "You're going to completely eradicate Title II, section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the ADA, and that will impact every person from Los Angeles to New York, from child to adult... You're going to set back disability policy 50 years, back to 1973."

Payan believes that the LACCD plans to change their argument from unintentional discrimination.

"[They will argue that] it would have caused them an undue burden to provide me, as a disabled student, the equal opportunity they claim to provide all other students," said the plaintiff.

The court did not set a specific hearing date at this time to resume the case.

While the original Payan v. LACCD verdict demonstrated that blind students did not receive the necessary accommodations for their education while attending LACCD campuses, some students reported positive experiences in receiving the required accommodations for their respective disabilities.

Of five students interviewed from three LACCD campuses, Los Angeles City College, East Los Angeles College and Valley College, two reported having a positive experience with getting the required accommodations. Two students, one from ELAC and one from LACC, reported having difficulty getting the necessary services.

Christina Cannarella, whose son, Johnny Hatch, is a student at Valley with multiple development and intellectual challenges, reports positive experiences as an advocate to acquire the accommodations Johnny requires. She is impressed with his professors' receptiveness to accommodate a student with Johnny's disabilities.

A qualitative study in the "Journal of Postsecondary Education and Disability" found that graduation rates for college students with disabilities are significantly lower than students without disabilities. Graduation rates for students with disabilities are 29 percent at four-year universities, 30 percent at two-year colleges and 55 percent at vocational or technical schools.

Payan v. LACCD is one case in which students with disabilities did not receive accommodations as required by law. While the problem is not limited to Los Angeles or California, the district does not take responsibility for the discrimination perpetrated on some students.



FILE PHOTO BY ANNETTE LESURE

LITIGATION- (L-R) Plaintiffs Portia Mason, Roy Payan and Paul Grossman, disability advocate and executive counsel for AHEAD, at a board of trustees meeting last spring.

These features and more can be found in full @ www.thevalleystarnews.com

Follow up-to-date campus news and events on Twitter @ValleyStarNews

New executive director steps into big shoes

Matt Durkan began his new role for Executive Director of the Valley College foundation last December.

JASMINE ALEJANDRE
STAFF WRITER

From lending a hand, to becoming a leader, Matt Durkan takes on the role of Executive Director of the Valley College Foundation.

Durkan officially began working at Valley in December. He attended the University of Seattle, where he earned his bachelor's degree. Before finding his way to campus, Durkan worked at College of the Desert in Coachella Valley where he was the director of development for their foundation. With not many opportunities to advance his career in the Coachella Valley, which consisted of about 250-300 thousand people at the time, Durkan applied in other areas and thus began his journey with Valley. The foundation director's love for working in higher education stems from

the students, who inspire him.

"The challenges are always changing, but the goal is always the same — to support students and make sure that we meet their needs to complete their education and be successful," said Durkan.

The mission of the foundation is to help support students achieve their goals and continue their education. Anything that can be done to make that experience easier is part of Durkan's job. Whether it be securing private donations for scholarships, programs or grants, the new director works to secure funds for students every day. His goal is to find new ways to fundraise and to encourage people to donate not just once, but regularly.

When asked what inspired him to follow this career path, the Seattle native said it is important to have a career that is fulfilling, rather than just having a good salary. In his younger years, Durkan had administrative jobs

that did not feel as meaningful. He got into non-profit fundraising by volunteering at an AIDS organization and was delivering food to home-bound AIDS patients. What began as a way to make friends and connect with the community, led him to find his passion in helping others. From that point forward he worked for nonprofits and helped people that needed support.

"It's kind of ironic because the first volunteer job I ever did at a nonprofit was delivering food, and here I am now, 20 years later and one of my main priorities is setting up the food pantry," said Durkan. "It really is a full circle moment."

Durkan takes on the role that Raul Castillo had until his passing. Castillo, 54, died of cancer last May. He helped raise close to \$10 million in funds for student scholarships. Although the two never met, Durkan knew about Castillo and how he served as the foundation's direc-

tor for over twenty years — he knows he has big shoes to fill.

"He set up so many great relationships that the goodwill continues to exist in this community is there because of him," said Durkan. "I hope to be able to not just capitalize on the goodwill, but to get to know as many people as I can to let them know that Valley is still here and we still need your support."

Durkan stated he is happy in his new position and welcomes students to his office to introduce themselves and let him know if there's anything they need.



GRIFFIN O'ROURKE | VALLEY STAR

DIRECTOR- Matt Durkan is the new Executive Director at Valley College. He led a career of working for non-profit organizations.

These features and more can be found in full @www.thevalley-starnews.com

Umoja Village expands into its new classroom

The Umoja Black Scholars expanded their community space for students in the first week of the spring semester.

NATALIE METCALF
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

Black scholars and allies crowded into Campus Center on Wednesday afternoon, some people waiting outside the door when Umoja Village unveiled their new expanded space.

More than 60 students and staff enjoyed karaoke, food and the words of Dr. Elliott Coney, counselor coordinator of Umoja Black Scholars, as he thanked administrators and professors for the success of the program. Valley College President Barry Gribbons was also in attendance, speaking volumes about Coney's success in running the program. In April 2019, Umoja moved into the Campus Center. Now the space has expanded to two connected classrooms for students to hang out, connect and receive academic advice. On average around 30 Monarchs use Umoja Village every day.

"I'm in a space where I get to serve others and get to provide an opportunity for students to build hope and confidence in what they're doing here," said



MIGUEL DIAZ | VALLEY STAR

CONGRATS- (L-R) Dr. Elliott Coney congratulates Valley College alumnus AJ Ajobola for graduating and becoming a police officer during an event hosted by Umoja Black Scholars on Feb. 8.

Coney, before the event. "We can show there is a lot of black connectivity in the Valley and that there is a place where black students need to be successful."

The Umoja Black Scholars program focuses on mentoring and helping African American students with their career goals and transfer pro-

cess, while helping to build leadership and awareness in multicultural communities.

The program has seen an increase in student engagement

since 2018, starting with 25 students and growing to well over 150 students each year this year. The highest number of students the program has ever seen was 233 students last year.

"Umoja, to me, is a space where you can connect with other Black people and feel at home," said second-year student Kandice Vass. "You feel understood and I think when you're in predominantly non-Black spaces, you don't always feel super seen or heard."

Vass first met Coney in a counseling class last Spring, where she first began attending program meetings.

"This idea that you could make a school as big as Valley, very small, and make it a part of a community is a value to students who are feeling out of place, lost and not sure how to navigate here," said Keidra Morris, professor of African American Studies. "My favorite part is teaching the students and helping them learn about the history their parents and grandparents have been a part of."

Black History Month occurs every February in remembrance

and tribute to African Americans' struggles to receive full citizenship and civil rights in history.

The new space opening is one of many events Umoja Black Scholars has planned in celebration for Black History Month. The following two events Umoja Black Scholars is hosting will be focused on allyship in the black community and mental health. These workshops will give Umoja members professional development experience, which is one of the main goals the program offers to students.

"Word to mouth is very powerful. We have a stronghold in the community," said Coney. "People are starting to know that we're here."

M. Night brings new trick to latest cabin flick

M. Night Shyamalan's newest work shows he's still on top form with twists and intrigue.

KENYA HARRIS
STAFF WRITER

M. Night Shyamalan's newest film, "Knock at the Cabin" is ultimately a meditation on humanity, free will and how far we are willing to go for the good of mankind.

The movie opens at a picturesque cabin nestled in the woods of Pennsylvania, where the protagonist couple Eric (Johnathan Groff) and Andrew (Ben Aldridge) are enjoying a nice getaway in the countryside with their adopted child Wen (Kristen Cui). The couple's quiet retreat is interrupted by four strangers and quickly turns into a fight for survival. The trespassers are driven by an unseen force, to push Eric and Andrew into a decision that may ultimately cost their family.

"We're here because we have a job to do," said Leonard (Dave Bautista). "In fact, it might be the most important job in the history of the world."

The ensemble cast delivers plenty of strong performances. There are some stellar performances by Groff and Aldridge.



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSAL PICTURES

STRANGERS- "Knock at the Cabin" is M. Night Shyamalan's newest film. The film stars Johnathan Groff, Rupert Grint and Dave Bautista. The mystery film was released on Feb. 3.

Using primarily close ups on their faces, Shyamalan keeps viewers grounded in the emotion of each character. Groff and

Aldridge made the audience feel as though they were living out this nightmare. Another noteworthy part of the ensem-

ble are the actors who play the strangers at the cabin. Bautista as Leonard, Nikki Amuk-Ohia as Sabrina, Abby Quinn

as Adriane, and Rupert Grint as Redmond each give a stirring performance, while letting viewers into the minds of the characters. Each stranger is played with complexity and nuance. The strangers' interactions with the family are jarring and surprising at the same time.

As a writer and director, Shyamalan is known for paradigm-shifting twists that come at the right moment to upend everything. Think back to Bruce Willis's final realization in "The Sixth Sense." This film continues in the Shyamalan legacy but not with just one trick alone. He is crafty, with heavy, brooding dialogue in which characters philosophize about their experiences. Hyper aware of his audience, Shyamalan has his characters debunk the theories created in the audience's minds as they watch. Moviegoers will hang on to every bit of dialogue for the right clues.

The end result is a heart wrenching mystery film about free will and belief, where the audience has the final choice about what they believe actually happened. "Knock at the Cabin" is a satisfying puzzle-box

that will make viewers question every moment. It delivers exactly what audiences have come to expect from Shyamalan: a story about community, mystery and the forces that bring us together.

VALLEY'S STARS



Worth the watch.
Playing only in theaters

Sheriffs slow on reporting campus crime

Recent crimes at Valley have failed to be recorded by the sheriff's department.

ASHER MILES
STAFF WRITER

The campus sheriff's department's failure to update the campus crime blotter, an ongoing report of campus crime, jeopardizes the safety of the Valley College community and begs the question, "Why isn't crime being documented on campus?"

From January to August 2022, 25 five crimes took place on the Valley campus. Since last September, zero incidents have allegedly happened on campus. Pressure from individual students led to the Sheriff's Department updating the campus crime blotter; particularly crimes that have been omitted from the 192 day late update. For example, in the newly refreshed blotter, the recent back-to-back taggings at the parking structure have been all but forgotten about.

A recent breaking and entering of the Theatre Arts building have brought to light the existence of the percolating issue of crime on campus. The doors to the Media Building were effortlessly pried open, without proper surveillance of the culprit.

"We are completely unaware," said second semester music major Miya Williams. "By the sheriff department not updating the crime blotter, it's not making me feel safe on campus. For the most part, I do feel safe on campus, but after

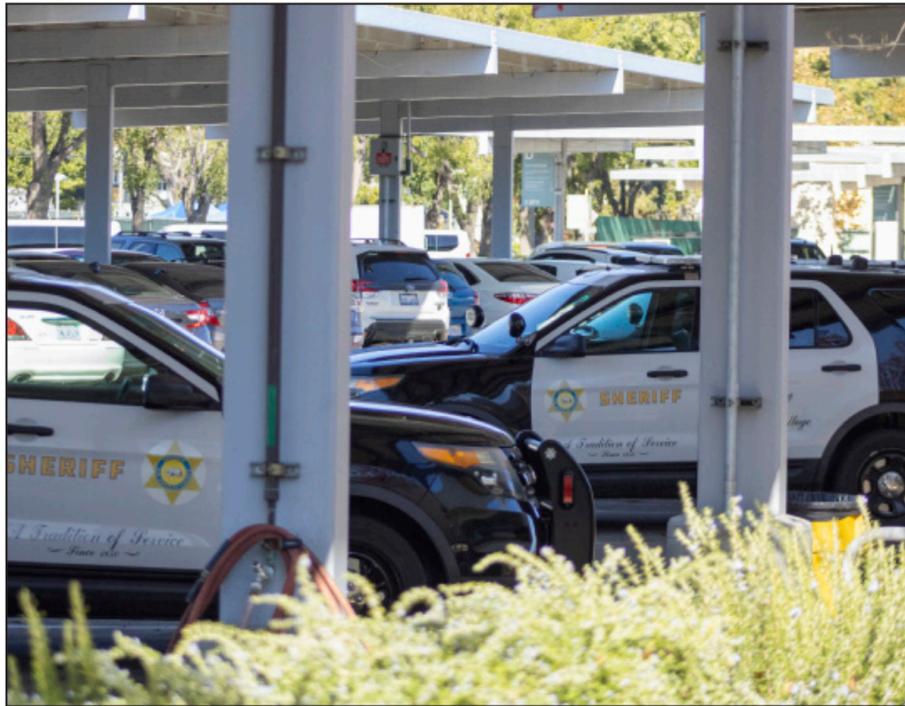
hearing this, it makes me ask myself "what are they doing?"

A non critical eye would propose that the increase of sheriff patrolling, coinciding with the arrest of Arnold Orozco, a vandal that terrorized Valley for five years, is the reason for the decline of on-campus crime. If the goal of recording on-campus crime is to make Valley appear as the safest campus in the LACCD, as Deputy Sheriff Coleman once suggested, then zero reported crimes will win them first place. However, the Sheriff Department not recording crimes is similar to a stock being pumped. It's full of air, until the truth bursts the bubble.

As stated in The Clery Act, all colleges and universities that receive federal financial aid must keep and disclose information about crime on and near their respective campuses. The Clery Act also states that alerts must be made of imminent dangers on campus, and that an Annual Security Report must be distributed to current and prospective students and employees, or face fines.

According to reports from Indicators of School Crimes and Safety: 2021, crime in American schools and college campuses have declined over the past two decades.

Within the newly updated crime blotter sheet an incident of burglary in the Theater Building, grand theft and an exhibition of a handgun have been document-



PATROL CARS- Sheriff SUVs wait outside of the Sheriff's Department at Valley College. FILE PHOTO BY JOSEPH ACUNA | VALLEY STAR

ed. The juveniles who tagged the parking structure were eventually arrested after loitering around the area they vandalized.

The sheriff's department got an easy catch due the vandal's

adolescent ignorance, rather than round-the-clock patrolling.

"We can't confirm if they are with a local gang," said Deputy Butler. "When I asked, they said no. Even though they

are spray painting gang-affiliated stuff, they may not want to disclose that information."

Neglected legends in need of facelift

Student options for finding their way around campus are in their own hands.



MAP- Weathered campus maps at the main entrance are being replaced with QR codes at Valley College. PHOTO BY BEATRIZ GARAY | VALLEY STAR

ings is empty, defined by etched title but not by purpose.

This oversight was not overnight either. Campus maps have not been part of the focus for some time. The Valley Academic and Cultural Centers completion date is still listed September 2016 to February 2019, and the Multicultural Center is not even listed. Students have already subconsciously, whether for this reason or another, moved on from the maps and hardly register their benefit. "I think I've seen them," said second year sociology major Suzy Simonyan. "But I'm always with my phone so it's more convenient." Convenience is what moves most things to digital: mail to email, landlines to cell phones, in-person to remote. Infrastructure changes like these bring a renewal and a refreshing take on existing technology. So the question is "what should Valley replace their maps with?" An app. Students are already given unsecured QR codes to scan that are, fingers crossed, posted by the school themselves. The now defunct Valley app, LAVC SAFE, once gave campus resources along with a map. The app is no longer available to download. Even if students were to have it installed, the links no longer work. Continued support is obviously not there, so Monarchs are brought back

to needing an alternative. From a staff directory, class search, calendar and library resources, all of this is available on a desktop and mobile phone. Students are able to ask questions to the new chatbot to help find information buried through links and tabs. Once again, it seems to be a secondary thought when it comes to being a resource; a step in the right direction even though directions are not an immediate concern.

Digital development is needed, like anything being modernized. In the Star's coverage for last year's district-wide bond, Measure LA, "infrastructure, technology, sustainability and general college needs will see \$85.5 million, \$33.5 million, \$94.3 million and \$62.32 million." Developing an app for students and faculty to use falls in all three of these categories. Having renewed interest in the buildings is nice, but so would being able to find them.

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JOSEPH ACUNA
STAFF WRITER

Valley College directories are in a poor state. Offset by the modernized buildings being constructed, students are left to use their phones to find their classes.

There are three directories surrounding Monarch Square, and only two have maps intact while the other was smashed. Valley has seemingly forgotten about this relic, and in doing so, passed this mentality to its students. "I didn't even know [Valley

College] had a directory," said second semester nursing major Josu Torres. "I just use my phone."

QR code postings printed on sheets of paper advertising the digital map are now above most standees. The once helpful obelisk between the Humanities and Foreign Language build-

EDITORS NOTE

The views expressed on this page are solely those of the writer and do not reflect those of the Valley Star or those of Los Angeles Valley College.



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Letters to the editor can be submitted online at www.thevalleystarnews.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 | HOW SAFE DO YOU FEEL ON CAMPUS?

TEXT BY JOSEPH ACUNA
PHOTOS BY JOSEPH ACUNA



"We live in the era of school shootings, I just hope it doesn't come to that. I feel safer [at LAVC] than at CSUN. Everyone is on their phones there, but here it feels more community oriented."

-JOSE ROMO, 22, HISTORY MAJOR



"I feel safe, but I'm questioning it after the recent emails."

-WILLIAM PALMER, THEATER MAJOR



"Generally I feel safe, but the email about the gun made me nervous. I feel safer having the sheriff's numbers saved on my phone at the recommendation from the Child Development professors."

-NATALIE GONZALEZ, CHILD DEVELOPMENT MAJOR



"I feel pretty safe, but ignorance is bliss. As long as the gun isn't being aimed at me. Sounds bad, but this is essentially free education here so I am just grateful."

-ELIANA LEVI, SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE MAJOR

Monarchs turn out the light on Citrus Owls

The Monarchs marched past Citrus by outsourcing them 15-2 in the second quarter, in 72-51 win.

KEVIN KHACHATRYAN
STAFF WRITER

The Lady Monarchs basketball team started the game strong by building up an 11-2 lead at home in the first five minutes of the game, and the presence of guards Jacqueline Privado, Leena Vo and Jordyn Jiron helped Valley College dominate Citrus College in a 21-point win.

Coming off a loss to the number 1 team in their conference, Valley women's basketball (Western State South 10-2, Overall 18-8) hosted the Citrus College Owls on Wednesday afternoon (Western State South 4-7, Overall 8-17) to grab their third straight home win. With sophomore guards Vo and Jiron combined 44 points, the Monarchs went on a 45-25 run from the end of the second quarter to the middle of the third and never looked back as they stomped to a 72-51 win.

"We have a handful of people who are capable of scoring like that every night," said head coach Monica Hang. "Tonight it just so happened to be Leena and Jordyn to shine the brightest."

The Monarchs came out of the gate on a 9-0 run, starting with four points from four different players including a three-pointer from Jiron and an assist to Vo for a fast break layup. The two led the game with 22 points scored.

Citrus cut the deficit to one point with less than one minute left in the first quarter, but Monarch guards Juliet Jaramillo and Emilie Brugna each hit a three-pointer to give Valley momentum to go on a 10-0 run putting them ahead by 11.

After the score was 21-10, the Monarchs never allowed the Owls to cut the game to a single-digit game. With a layup plus the foul from Jiron, Valley extended their lead to a 12 point game and two straight layups from Vo gave the Monarchs a 17 point lead.

"We made adjustments at halftime and were able to execute them," said Hang.

The fourth quarter saw the Monarch duo Vo and Jiron

combine for 12 points. Jiron shot a perfect 100 percent from the free throw line, converting all four of her shots.

Vo finished the game with 22 points and shot an efficient 76 percent from the field to go along with five rebounds.

Jiron and Vo shined as the two leading scorers of the night to help the Monarchs roll to a 72-51 victory.

Jiron finished with 22 points, scoring 15 of her points in the second half. She tallied nine assists, seven rebounds, but turned the ball over four times. Jacqueline Privado finished with 11 points while also cleaning up the boards with seven rebounds.

The Lady Monarchs will earn a trip to the playoffs for the first time since the 2017-18 season as they will close out their final game on Feb. 17 with sophomore night.

As the season comes to an end this week, the women's basketball team is waiting to see where they will be seeded in the playoff bracket which will be released on Feb. 19.

With the Monarch's currently holding a 18-8 overall record, in conference they are 10-2. They are currently sitting third in conference, behind Canyons and Glendale. They are second and first respectively.

Valley is unaware of the team that they will be facing in the first round of the postseason, but their first game will be on Feb. 22.

"We are ranked in Southern California and will be playing in the postseason," said Hang. "It's a win or go home situation, so the goal is to do our best and win so we can advance to the next round."

The Lady Monarchs will next face West LA College on Feb. 15 at 5 p.m. in a rematch after going down to overtime and winning the game by one point.

**SOPHOMORE
NIGHT
FRIDAY 17.**



XAVIER DUBON | VALLEY STAR

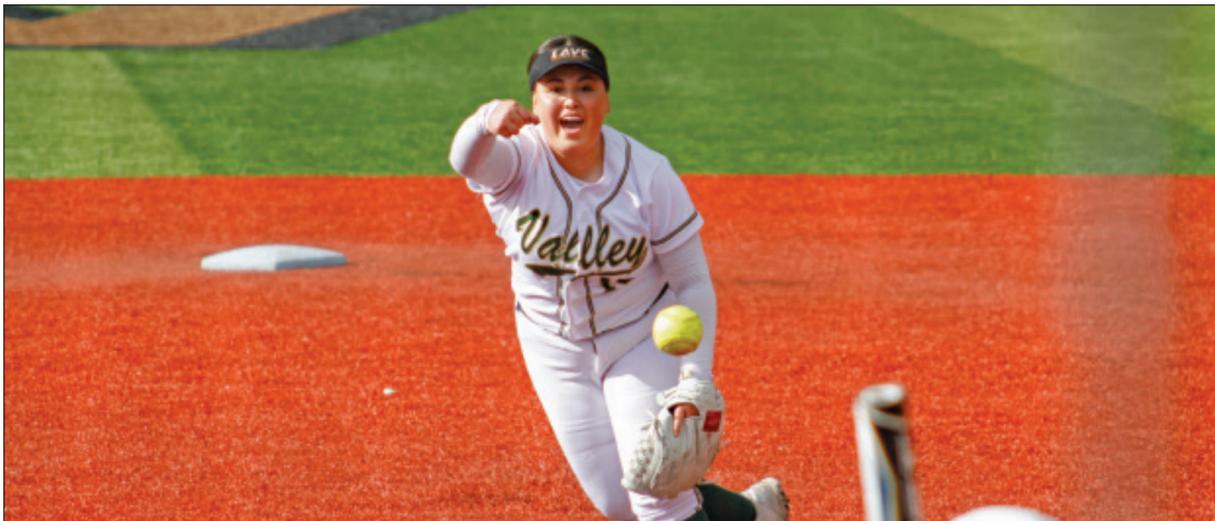


(Above) DIRECTOR- Monarchs sophomore guard Jordyn Jiron directs teammates during the twenty-fifth game of the season versus Citrus College at Valley College.

(Below) DRIVE- Monarchs sophomore guard Leena Vo drives into a heavily contested layup against Owls freshman Janet Alcantara during their twenty-fifth game of the season at Valley College

Monarchs could not overpower Citrus Owls offense

Scoreless through five innings, cashing in three runs to tie the game late, the late-game pitching could not hold the Owls down.



NICHOLAS OROZCO | VALLEY STAR

(Above) PITCH- Sophomore Pitcher Isabel Ward hurls a pitch towards catcher Clarissa Robles on Tuesday Feb. 14. The Monarchs lost this match up, pushing their record to 1-10.

(Below) SWING- Freshman shortstop Briana Gaskill hits a hard line drive towards the third baseman which deflects towards the shortstop and overthrows towards, allowing Gaskill to move to second.



NICHOLAS OROZCO
SPORTS EDITOR

Although Valley College lost its conference opener and dropped its record to 1-10, it gave the visiting Citrus Owls a little bit of a scare.

The Monarchs (1-10) were nursing a 1-0 until the sixth when Citrus (5-2) hit a base-clearing double and followed it up with a single making the score 4-1. Valley responded in the bottom of the frame when Briana Gaskill ripped a base-clearing triple, scoring freshman Selena Gonzalez, Aleenah Castanon, and Azcuena Villalta. Her hit tied the game at four.

"I was thinking on going oppo [opposite], to score runs," said Gaskill. "I've been struggling, I was thinking on the ground, on the ground line drives."

Citrus responded in the top of the seventh when Patty Rodriguez and Jasani Zavalza, ripped back-to-back doubles giving the visitors a 5-4 lead. The Monarchs failed to score in the final inning after popping up and grounding into fielders' choices.

"Pick each other up and go through it, I told them no goose eggs," coach Andrea Contreras said, she was proud of her team as they tied the

game. "Just keep going, keep the momentum going."

Monarch sophomore pitcher Isabel Ward threw into the sixth inning and getting two outs, she allowed three runs to come across the board for Citrus.

The Monarchs decided to make a change and brought in Gaskill from short.

"She's great. She's versatile. She goes wherever I need her," Contreras said after the game.

Through the five innings, the Monarchs scored a run in the bottom of the third. With a line drive toward the baseman off the bat of Gaskill, the ball deflected toward short, which led to a throwing error that allowed Gaskill to advance to second base. Stepping up to the plate was sophomore Violeta Espinoza, who hit a double off the right field fence that nearly cleared the fence, allowing Gaskill to score from third.

Valley will next host San Diego City College on Saturday for a double header, games starting at 12:00 pm and 2:00 pm.

**DOUBLE HEADER
SATURDAY
12:00PM &
2:00PM**