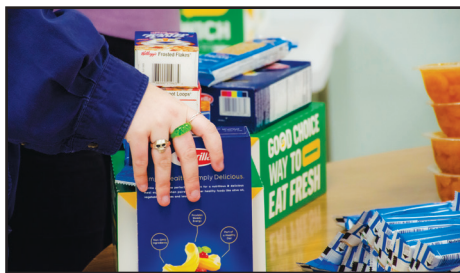




**VALLEY LIFE: NEW LION IN TOWN**  
UTAH NATIVE BEATRIX TEANEY WEARS THE LIAM THE LION COSTUME WITH PRIDE.



**OPINION: FOOD FOR THOUGHT**  
VALLEY COLLEGE'S HOLISTIC COMMITMENT TO STUDENT NEEDS IS PAYING OFF.



BHM- Founder of African Soul International Jewel Jackson interacts with Umoja coordinator Elliott Coney at the Valley College Black History Month Celebration on Feb. 22. The Umoja Black Scholars program organized a fruitful month of events for Black History Month. Kicking off February, Umoja held a spring orientation program for prospective students. The following week, the scholars presented a painting session called Trap and Paint. Students painted on canvases and enjoyed charcuterie snacks. Valley Young Black Scholars Day featured ZuZu acrobats on Feb. 22. Middle and highschool students filled Monarch Hall and were invited to a soul food luncheon outside of the cafeteria. Speaking at the event, was the founder of the organization Jewel Jackson, who earned a Ph.D. in education from the California State Polytechnic University-Pomona. She spoke on black educational figures that have made an impact in developing new technology, legislation and medicine. The next day, the ceramics program collaborated with Umoja for a ceramics workshop that drew 31 students and faculty in attendance.

VIOLETT DE JEAN | VALLEY STAR

-TEXT BY AVA ROSATE  
SEE "UMOJA" ON PAGES 3 AND 4

## Campus Center flood causes outages

### The recent storm brought damages to the Valley College campus.

CASSANDRA NAVA  
MANAGING EDITOR

Due to the rain and flooding in and around Campus Center, Valley College suffered power issues Wednesday evening that darkened buildings and interrupted internet, network and telephone service in at least 16 buildings.

**"The tree is old and all the rain loosened up the soil so with the winds, it pushed it over. It happened yesterday or Saturday; I'm not sure."**

- Rudy Majano, Valley Gardening Supervisor

Evening students in buildings without power were relocated to Business Journalism and the Foreign Language building. In the meantime, maintenance workers pumped water out of the basement in Campus Center where the Alpha Data Center, the hub that controls the suspended services, is located. The weekend storms brought more than 8 inches of rain and up to 10 mph winds which caused power outages and property damages for Los Angeles and neighboring cities, with foul weather persisting through yesterday. "On Friday we lost power, and now it's Wednesday and we still haven't gotten power in our house," said Valley student and

administration of justice major Zoe Nguyen. "So we don't have hot showers or lights at night. So we are using candle lights or flash lights to study." The storm that torpedoed through the state left waves of damage in its wake. Harsh winds caused trees to topple all over the San Fernando Valley, resulting in power outages as far out as Long Beach to Santa Clarita. As of Tuesday, the LADWP restored a total of 140,000 Angeleno's services, while 7,600 residents remain without power. In addition to the Campus Center flooding, Valley reported one leak in the Maintenance and Operations Building and multiple leaks in the unfinished Valley Academic and Cultural Center. At the beginning of the school week, a handful of maintenance workers cut and removed a fallen tree on the southside of campus. The large pin oak fell on the fence guarding the college's water tank, damaging a portion of the chainlink barrier. "The tree is old and all the rain loosened up the soil so with the winds, it pushed it over," said Valley Gardening Supervisor Rudy Majano. "It happened yesterday or Saturday; I'm not sure." Although the recent weather will not eliminate California's drought, it helped significantly. According to the LA Times, the largest reservoirs, Lake Oroville and Lake Shasta, were at a capacity of 71 percent and 59 percent. This shows an increase from two months ago when the lakes were at 29 percent and 32 percent. As of Feb. 23, the U.S. Drought Monitor map showed the state in a "moderate" drought, whereas a year ago it was in an "extreme" drought. Officials are waiting for the snow to melt to see how much impact it will have on the dry spell.



GRIFFIN O'ROURKE | VALLEY STAR

(Above) TOPPLED- Valley College gardeners cut apart limbs of a large tree that fell during the weekend storm. The tree damaged a metal chainlink fence that surrounded the thermal storage water tank, a reservoir for chilled water.

(Left) SAW- A Valley College gardener cuts through the limbs of the fallen tree. The weekend storm brought record-breaking rainfall and gusty winds, leading to power outages throughout California.

"We do want to make our facilities available to the public. We especially like to prioritize the use of our facilities by the local schools, to make sure that we're a good community partner, but we do our best to make all of our facilities available to community users," Gribbons said. Five more leases were unanimously ratified by the LACCD board of trustees at yesterday's meeting. The Crescenta Soccer Club will use the soccer stadium, Parking Lot G will serve as a parking and shuttle location for the Hollywood Bowl, Milken Community Schools will use Monarch Stadium, Cal State Northridge rented the baseball field until June and the campus will host the food truck Duaa Maayah dba Chicaterranean for the next year. Total income from the five new use agreements amount to \$121,632.

— With contributions from Isaac Dektor.

### IMPORTANT INFO

#### March 8

Three event are slated to take place on campus Wednesday: Art Is Good For You! Workshop, new student veterans orientation and a free Wednesday concert: Music for Storytelling.

#### March 15

The Rainbow Pride Center will collaborate with the Veterans Resource Center for a paint and lunch event.

These features and more can be found in full @ [www.thevalleystarnews.com](http://www.thevalleystarnews.com)



# Vass wants to be a part of something greater

The second-year sociology student is in the Umoja Black Scholars Program and continues to be inspired.

NATALIE METCALF  
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

Kandice Vass is in pursuit of social change, primarily by defending her community. Being a part of the Umoja Black Scholars program and taking sociology courses influences her plan to create a better version of the world.

Her goal of building a legacy has influenced her since she was a kid. Vass wants to be a part of the bigger picture by making long-lasting changes in society. The sociology major has her heart set on California State University Los Angeles, transferring as a sociology law and society major. Vass' time at the Umoja Black Scholars program began last year, after attending her first in-person college course. There, she met the counselor and coordinator of the program, Dr. Elliott Coney.

"Once you go into sociology, you learn all these theories, and you start applying it to life," said Vass. "But being a lawyer you get to go in and change laws that are negatively affecting peo-



DISCUSS- (L-R) Second-year sociology major Kandice Vass converses with Dr. Elliott Coney about college transcripts during an event held by Umoja Black Scholars called Trap and Paint.

ple in the community. I think sociology has a background where it stems into creating an effective change for people."

Vass was inspired by her mother, Pam Vass, to pick sociology as a major. Vass wants to give back to her community, but

not choose the same career as a social worker and therapist -- per her mother. As a future leader of tomorrow, Vass plans to attend law school after receiving her graduate degree. The sociology major wants to connect with people and make a

permanent change. One day, the black scholar wishes to change laws negatively affecting her community, such as mass incarceration and systemic racism.

"Incarceration is awful, we're the freest county and yet we have the highest incarcer-

ation rates, that's insane," said the sociology major. "We like to act like racism is past tense but it's present tense and it's going to be future tense if we don't make systemic changes."

The Valley student's favorite part of The Umoja Program is its sense of community. In her first year with Umoja, she went to a Umoja conference and college fair in Anaheim. During the conference, Vass was able to make long-lasting connections with fellow Umoja peers and receive advice on transferring to California State University Los Angeles.

"You make connections with people who are gonna tell you about the next school you're going to," said Vass. "I've made a lot of friends and they're all so cool and they motivate me and I motivate them -- the energy is reciprocated."

Her closest friend in the program is Jana Palmer, the vice president of Umoja. Vass and her friends in the Umoja Village combine schoolwork and hang-out time. The second-year student enjoys making playlists with her friends. Vass enjoys lis-

tening to house music and R&B.

"I think the smallest steps can get you a very long way," said Palmer in reference to Vass' succession. "The fact that she wants to step up here [Umoja] and do some things around here is already in the right direction. She is such a bright person, so I really have no doubt she'll be successful."

The 21-year-old describes the Umoja Black Scholars Program as a family because of the way the program is run. Coney is seen as a father figure to the program because he is so passionate about his job. The black scholar primarily uses the Umoja space at least twice a week but also visits when she is on campus.

Palmer, Coney and her mother inspired her to create something greater and leave behind a legacy worthy of her mentors.

"I want to make effective change and I think it's more of a legacy thing, like leaving something behind for somebody else," said the sociology major. "They've opened so many doors and now it's my turn to open doors for other people."

# Beatrix Teaney truly embraces Liam the Lion

The student worker lives, breathes and exudes Leo energy in a perfect match for Valley's mascot.

AVA ROSATE  
STAFF WRITER

Ever since highschool, Beatrix Teaney wanted to be a school mascot. When she arrived at Valley College she had the chance to step into the skin of a lion.

Born in Utah, the woman behind the mask came to Los Angeles on her own at 18 years old after graduating high school. She took two gap years off after high school to pursue personal growth endeavors. Then, in fall of 2019, Teaney enrolled in Valley as a cultural anthropology major.

**"Back in high school, I always wanted to be the mascot but it was very gendered and they wouldn't let girls be the mascot for whatever reason."**

*- Beatrix Teaney, Liam the Lion*

A year after being enrolled at Valley, she became a student worker at the Outreach Program, where she met Liam the Lion, Valley's mascot. After a promotional photoshoot for Valley involving Teaney, her cowork-

ers and the Liam costume, the 24 year old student knew she wanted to wear the lion costume.

"Back in highschool, I always wanted to be the mascot but it was very gendered and they wouldn't let girls be the mascot for whatever reason," said the 24-year-old. "When I asked Raquel Sanchez, the student engagement coordinator, she was surprised that I wanted to wear the costume. I told her there was nothing I'd like more than to be the mascot."

One of the driving factors of Teaney's choice to embody Liam is the fact that she is exuberant and vibrant — characteristics she attributes to her astrological sign — Leo.

"We are ruled by the sun, the largest and brightest thing in our sky, so I usually like to think of myself as very large and bright in the people's lives around me," the anthropology major explained, while brushing out the matted fur of the lion costume.

The second reason Teaney wanted to step into the costume was because of her favorite movies, "Charlie's Angels." In the film, Cameron Diaz was the school's mascot and Teaney resonated with Diaz's character.

"It resonated with me because she is just so exuberant and happy and that's me," said Teaney.

As a full time student planning to transfer to UC Chico and a part time student worker in the Outreach and Recruitment office, the dedicated Monarch's spare time is

few and far between. When she isn't on campus, Teaney can be found cruising up the coast of Northern California in her travel van - visiting nature rich regions and thrift shopping in the area.

"Van life adds to my already rambunctious creative self, but it is not my signifying label. It's a privilege to live like this but I'd be kidding if I said it was a constant adventure," the 24-year-old said. "I chose this lifestyle for economical reasons during the pandemic, otherwise I would have been homeless."

Teaney is halfway through her third year at Valley. She plans on enrolling in Chico State after she graduates in the spring. After graduation, the anthropology major plans on moving up north towards her desired university.

"I'm going to miss Liam. I wish I had asked a year earlier because being with him longer would have been awesome," said Teaney. "One of my favorite things about putting on the costume is making students and anybody who interacts with me happy. I also love the anonymity of it. I'm obviously a very stand out person, but when I put on the costume I can still stand out — though people won't know it's me."

Teaney, the student behind the mascot, is also a student worker at the Outreach Office. The full time student holds many hobbies like beekeeping, thrift shopping, horseback riding and candle making.



AVA ROSATE | VALLEY STAR

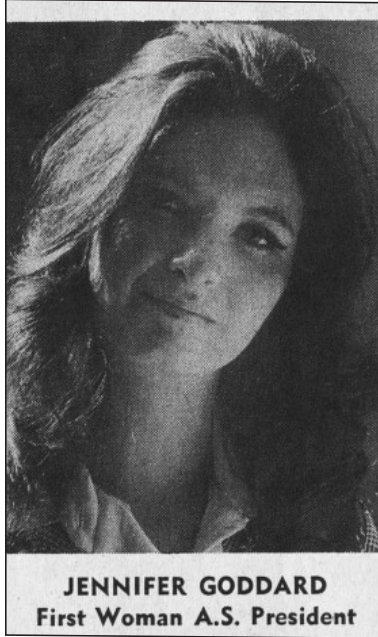
MASCOT- While in highschool, Beatrix Teaney wished to wear her school's mascot and attend sports games and campus functions while spreading school spirit, but the role was only open to males. Now, Valley has given her the opportunity to pursue her dream through Liam the Lion.



AVA ROSATE | VALLEY STAR

WORKER- Beatrix Teaney, the student behind the mascot, is also a student worker at the Outreach Office. The full time student holds many hobbies like beekeeping, thiriting, horseback riding and candle making.

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



JENNIFER GODDARD  
First Woman A.S. President

PRESIDENT- Jennifer Goddard was the first women student body president.

## Monarch Memory: 1972

# Goddard takes A.S. Presidency

CHRIS PREIMESBERGER  
CITY EDITOR, CIRCA 1972

Jennifer Goddard, the newly-elected A.S. president, is the first woman ever chosen to that post in the 23-year history of Valley College.

Miss Goddard, who won last week's race with 399 votes (as compared to 152 for Phyllis Lichenstein and 50 for Brent Gold), will take charge of the new executive council next September for the Fall '72 semester.

She served as commissioner of public relations this past semester, which was her

second term at this school.

An 18-year-old journalism major theater arts minor, Miss Goddard attributes her victory to a "very tightly run campaign" that cost "much more than expected."

She also told the Star Tuesday that the long-awaited Recreation Room, which is situated in the Campus Center basement, is due to be completed over the summer and can be expected to be ready for use at the latest, on Oct. 1.

The project, which is the brainchild of the Valley Patrons' Association, has been in the works for more than three

months. An announcement as to the completion of the room was not expected this soon.

Miss Goddard said that the main problem with its completion was the ventilation system, which is now served by air conditioning. She added that the room will have refreshment machines and pool tables, among other things, for the enjoyment of the student body.

The new president is a supporter of George McGovern for the for the U.S. Presidential nomination, while also supporting Prop. 9 on the June 6 primary ballot. In school matters, she favors "52 weeks of

unemployment insurance and 48 months of tuition and school fully paid for" for veterans. She has been a long-time proponent of the veterans on this campus as all veterans in general.

Answering the question of whether she can expect trouble from the new council because of her simply being a woman, she said, "Why should they trouble me? I think of myself as a person, not as a woman or man."

"I believe that man and woman should be equal in work and responsibility," she said in answer to a question regarding women's liberation.

Miss Goddard also men-

tioned that she would like to see the \$25,000 for student insurance be reinstated, because it was cut from the budget this past semester.





Savannah Greenly | Valley Star  
Zuzu acrobat Faraji Mohamed spins and balances plates during the Valley Young Black Scholars Day at Valley College.



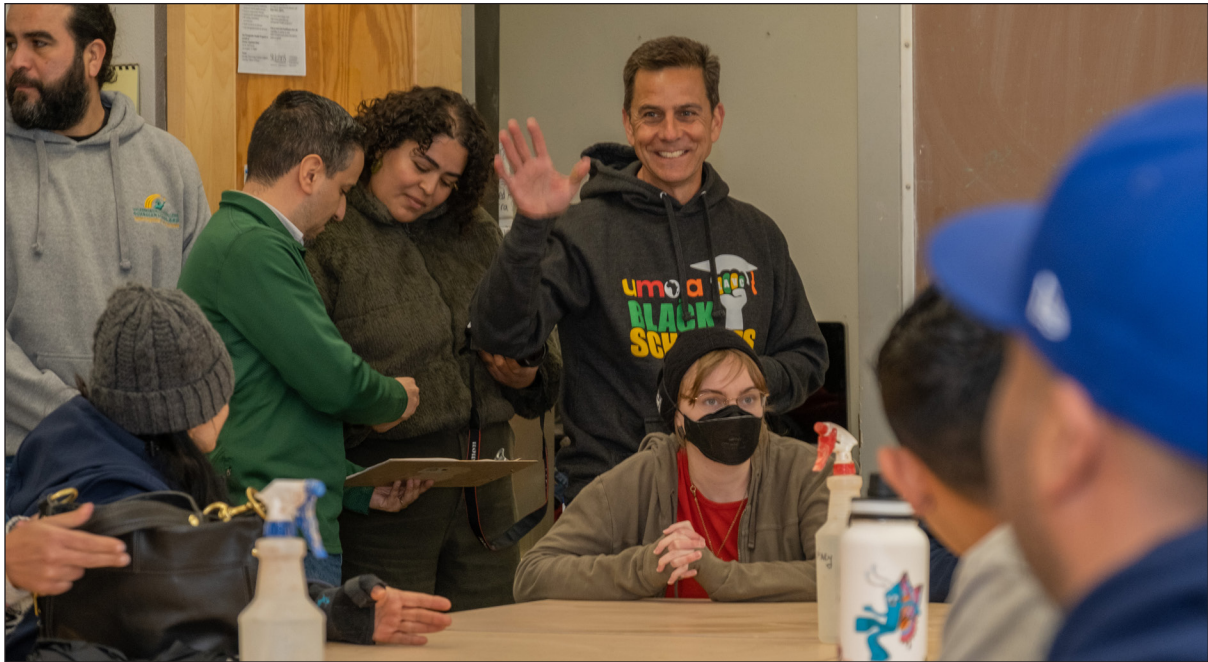
Violett de Jean | Valley Star  
Jewel Jackson speaks to a crowd of high school students in the Student Union Square. In 1998, Jackson established African Soul International, a group that teaches African culture through traditional song, dance and story.

# Umoja Black Scholars lead Black History Month

Valley College hosts Black History Month celebrations featuring an array of activities and performances such as acrobatics, ceramics and art.



Savannah Greenly | Valley Star  
Counselor & Coordinator for Umoja Black Scholars Elliot Coney makes an announcement during the Umoja Trap & Paint.



Griffin O'Rourke | Valley Star  
Valley College President Barry Gribbons shows up a ceramics workshop hosted by the Mosaic Village and Umoja Black Scholars program on Feb. 23 at the art building.



Savannah Greenly | Valley Star  
Free food is offered during Umoja's Trap & Paint event at Los Angeles Valley College in Los Angeles, Calif., Wednesday, Feb. 15.





Savannah Greenly | Valley Star  
Zuzu acrobat Sadick Shabani balances on chairs during an acrobatics show. The show was hosted by the Umoja Black Scholars club for Black History Month.



Savannah Greenly | Valley Star  
Zuzu acrobats perform a balancing act during the Valley Young Black Scholars Day at Los Angeles Valley College in Los Angeles, Calif., Wednesday, Feb. 22.



Miguel Diaz | Valley Star  
(L-R) Elliot Coney congratulates Valley College alumni AJ Ajibola for becoming a police officer. The Umoja Black Scholars were celebrating the opening of the Umoja Village, an expansion to their offices in the Campus Center.



Griffin O'Rourke | Valley Star  
(L-R) Elliot Coney and studio arts major Olivia Gomez work on their pinch pots which are small clay bowls sculpted by hand.



Violett de Jean | Valley Star  
Students and staff create artwork at Umoja's Trap and Paint event at the art building.



Griffin O'Rourke | Valley Star  
Art major Earvee Astorga stains her clay creation at a ceramics workshop hosted by the Mosaic Village and Umoja Black Scholars program on February 23, 2023, at the Valley College art building.



# District prioritizes student success

## Students across the LACCD can rest easy knowing their college has their backs.

CASSANDRA NAVA  
MANAGING EDITOR

The LACCD's student-based aid initiatives are fostering community; closing the equity gap previously held by marginalized groups. Wraparound services are needs-based, focused on addressing problems before or as they occur. At Valley College, Monarchs are able to take advantage of a myriad of benefits, from food distributions to free child-care. The elimination of third party assistance allows for students to focus on the core values of education, while being able to utilize the college as a one-stop shop. By creating helpful initiatives, the individual can thrive. The community itself becomes stronger as a whole when program directors and staff can visibly see their efforts poured into multiple success stories. Valley's Family Resource Center and Child Development Center are prime examples of services that enable a successful experience with higher education. The CDC offers free child care to students, emphasizing their continued support for single mothers looking to transfer or graduate. Nursing major Gulnoza Kamilova took advantage of both centers, citing their amenities as a great asset. "Both are very good resources," said Kamilova. "The CDC was taking care

of my kids and the FRC was buying books and diapers and anything to help my finances." By offering free necessities to a student like Kamilova, Valley can ensure the academic success of nontraditional students who might otherwise fall short of completing their degree. She was able to focus on one less financial burden among the costs of textbooks and courses, coupled with personal budgets like rent and food. The Basic Needs Center on campus once included a pantry that was open to students and the community as a whole, handing out organic produce and canned goods twice a week. Due to lack of funding amidst a global pandemic, the pantry closed its doors — but offered help by distributing gift cards to grocery stores in 2020. The center's counselor/coordinator Juan Castellanos is working to bring back free food distributions every Thursday. The initiative is just one way to ensure that Monarchs in need are nourished in more than just education. The California Community College system's support is part of an effort to put an end to disproportionate impact, an issue among students whose academic success is hindered by inequitable practices and policies. Typically, the students affected are those of lower income groups or historically underrepresented groups such as African American, Latino and American Indian students. Focusing on



HIGHNOON- Psychology major Metztlí Moreno, 40, enjoys lunch with the Puente Club during Warm Meal Wednesdays at the Basic Needs Center. The center provides meals and groceries for students.

groups in need is one way to tailor support to what colleges actually need, rather than blindly funding pre-existing programs. "We look for what are we doing at Valley that's causing one group of students to not be as successful as another group, and how can we change our practices to ensure that we eliminate those disproportionate impacts," said Valley President Barry Gribbons. "There's no group of students

that shows disproportionate impact across all measures." Programs for specialized groups such as Black students, Chicano students, Veterans or disabled students have a trove of aid that can be tapped into, along with offering a group setting for like-minded individuals to share stories of struggles and successes. Last November, voters passed Measure LA, the LACCD's most recent bond of

\$5.3 billion. Along with modernizations to buildings and campuses, technology and sustainability measures, there is \$500 million allotted for student housing. The district has not currently approved any motions pushing the ambitious idea forward. When and if housing becomes available to students, the LACCD will have completed integrating the nine colleges into fully functioning communities for students across the county.

# Carter shows the way for post-presidency

## Former president's life defined by humanitarian record, not his years in office.



HUMANITARIAN- Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter speaking at Illinois College in Jacksonville on 2014. The 39th president's speech centered on human rights and bringing peace to the Middle East.

ASHER MILES  
STAFF WRITER

"I'll never tell a lie. I'll never make misleading statements. I'll never betray the confidence that any of you had in me. And I'll never avoid a controversial issue." Forty-two years after the end of his presidency, the 98 year-old former President

Jimmy Carter outshines his contemporaries in post-presidential work as he enters hospice. The one-term president's reputation was marred by persistent domestic and international turbulence that critics denounced as unsteady leadership. His mismanagement of the Iran hostage crisis plagued the tail end of his presidency cou-

pled with a cavalcade of sweat-er jokes. After Ronald Reagan defeated Carter in the 1980 election, the Georgia born peanut farmer rolled up his sleeves and went to work: he led the charge in the Guinea Worm Eradication Program and partnered with Habitat for Humanity to build over 40,000 houses in eight countries. All-the-while

performing humanitarian aid, his openness with the press continued to stand in stark opposition to his contemporaries. Many presidents spend their lives after their terms with leisure time. George W. Bush took up painting, Barack Obama ventured into film production and started a podcast. Donald Trump partnered with prank youtube channels, and, if possible, played more golf than when he was in office. In the case of President Carter, however, his retirement has largely focused on humanitarian efforts. The 39th president and his wife opened the non-for-profit Carter Center in pursuit to find peaceful solutions to international conflict, earning him the Nobel Peace Prize in 2002. His extensive travel to conduct peace negotiations, monitor elections and further the eradication of infectious diseases juxtapose that of his contemporaries. Lining his pockets with profit has never been the former Governor of Georgia's mode of operation. Carter promoted progressive issues well before they became mainstream, even correctly predicting how the United States consumed more oil than we produced. "When we import oil, we are also importing unemployment," Carter said in his Crisis of Confidence speech on July 15, 1979. Symbolically, aspects of the personal identity of Carter's unorthodox approach have been mirrored by a multitude of con-

temporary progressive figures. He's been a centerpiece and role model for dozens of working class contumacious candidates to participate in government. Millionaire daddies and Ivy League schools were never in the cards for the cardigan loving president. The first in his family to graduate highschool, he enlisted for ten years in the Navy researching and developing nuclear projects. When he came back to his 700 people hometown in Georgia, the young Carter was the only white male in his hometown to not join the White Citizens Council, a white supremacist association that took root after the landmark Brown v. Board of Education. The rise of similar councils sparked his interest in politics taking him from the Georgia state senate, to the governorship and eventually to presidency. Today's post-presidential careers have been absolutely nothing of the sort compared to Carter. Now at the end of his life, he quietly awaits his call home, with a legacy enveloped for his love of humanity.

### 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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### GOT A LETTER TO THE EDITOR?

Letters to the editor can be submitted online at [www.thevalleystarnews.com](http://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 were you affected by the recent storm?

TEXT BY SAYEH SAADAT  
PHOTOS BY JEREMY RUIZ



"The power went out at my work, so I had to have the day off for two days. I had to ask for a ride because the transportation was interrupted. It is an hour ride for me."

-ANDREA MARTINEZ, MARINE BIOLOGY MAJOR



"The storm had no impact on me. I drove to college for the first time in the rain with no trouble."

-SUSANA URRUTIA, PSYCHOLOGY MAJOR



"For starters, I couldn't go out much because it was so bad that I could have blown my umbrella away or worse. I could've been swept away by the storm. So I just stayed inside."

-DAZIEL RECINOS, CINEMA ARTS MAJOR



"We had a short power outage at our house. It only lasted twenty minutes. My dad fixed it."

-JAZMIN BALBUENA, KINESIOLOGY MAJOR





DEFEAT-Monarchs head coach Monica Hang reacts to her teams play in the third quarter. The Monarchs cut the lead to five-points in the third, still falling short, losing 63-54.

# Raiders send Lady Monarchs packing

## Moorpark shutdown Valley’s playoff hopes in second round of the SoCal Regionals

KEVIN KHACHATRYAN  
STAFF WRITER

The women’s basketball season ended Saturday at Moorpark College as the Monarchs dropped its second-round Southern California Regional contest 63-54 to the Raiders.

The Monarch faced a squad riding a 17-game winning streak and a team that earned the top spot in the playoffs. Valley (21-9) kept the game close through in the first half, even taking a lead at one point in

the second quarter. However, Moorpark (24-5) clamped down on defense in the second half, limiting the Monarchs to 39 percent from the field.

Valley’s three offensive weapons: sophomore guards Jordyn Jiron, Leena Vo and Jacqueline Privado, shot a combined 6-29 from the field (21 percent), leaving the Monarchs helpless against the Raiders defense.

“We fought really hard until the end,” said Vo. “It just came down to having those sharp moves, executing and hitting shots. I don’t doubt that we didn’t want this game. It’s

just that they showed up a little more than we did today.”

Before the game got away from the Monarchs, sophomore guard Emilia Brugna hit a 3-pointer on an assist from Vo to move the Monarchs within four points with 30 seconds left in the first quarter.

Trailing 20-16 with six minutes left in the second quarter, sophomore Dyani Del Castillo made a jumpshot and Brugna knocked down a triple, giving the Monarchs their first and only lead, 21-20.

The Raiders went on a 10-0 run to close out the second

quarter. Four turnovers for the Lady Monarchs led to Moorpark scoring two three-pointers and a buzzer-beating layup to end the first half with the home team leading 33-23.

In the third quarter, the Monarchs played a productive game as they were able to cut the lead to five points after Privado and Jiron each hit a 3-pointer on three straight turnovers from Moorpark.

The Raiders responded with a 8-0 run with two three-pointers that increased Moorpark’s lead to 14 points.

The fourth quarter saw

the same struggles for the Monarchs defense as they were unable to stop Moorpark’s 10-2 run early in the quarter. The home team extended their lead to 15 points with two 3-pointers and Moorpark sophomore forward Jasmine Nichols helped extend the lead with two layups to give the Raiders a commanding 60-45 lead.

The Monarchs shot 5-17 from the field (29 percent) and 2-9 from three-point land (22 percent). The Raiders took advantage of Valley’s poor shooting to advance in the playoffs and end the Monarchs’ season.

# Lady Monarch Wrap-Up



XAVIER DUBON | VALLEY STAR  
GAME-ON- Jacqueline Privado surveys the court.

KEVIN KHACHATRYAN  
STAFF WRITER

The Lady Monarchs headed into the SoCal Regional playoffs with a conference co-MVP and three first team all-conference players and a defense that allowed fewer than 50 points in their last five games.

This formula served them well in their opening playoff game, as the Monarchs dispatched Imperial Valley College at home last week 74-44. However, over the weekend, the Lady Monarchs fell to the Moorpark Raiders, the number one team in the Western State South Conference, 63-54.

Valley compiled a conference record of 12-2, finishing second to Glendale College, which finished 13-1. The Valley squad was led by sophomore guards Jordyn Jiron (14.7 points per game), Jacqueline Privado (10.4 points per game), Leena Vo (9.1 points per game) and Emilie Bruga (7.3 points per game).

For her efforts, Jiron was named conference co-MVP and second team all-state. In conference, Jiron was fifth in points averaged per game and third in total points for the season with 396. Privado, Vo, and Brugna were named first team all-conference.

“After a tough 2021-22 season, the sophomores made a commitment to be better and began to put in the work,” said head coach Monica Hang referring to last season’s overall record of 11-13. “They also cared for one another and when one cares about someone, you’re willing to do whatever it takes to have their backs.”

The Monarchs offense ranked 36 out of 89 teams in the California Community College Athletic Association. The women’s basketball team averaged 66 points per game, which helped the Monarchs to a second place finish in conference.

Valley’s playoff run against Moorpark came to an end due mostly to their poor shooting in the contest. The team shot 39 percent from the field and 38 percent from 3-point land.

The Lady Monarch also turned the ball over to the Raiders 18 times, which led to easy buckets for the host team. However, coach Hang was encouraged by her team’s effort on Saturday night and the experience her freshman players gained during the season.

“The grind doesn’t stop,” Hang said. “It’s a process. Trust the process and never cheat the process. Be consistent with one’s effort each day.”

Sophomore guard Leena Vo said she was proud of the whole team and the effort they put together all season, including the playoffs.

“We fought really hard until the end,” Vo said. “It just hurts to leave everything behind because I’ve really built a family with them in the past two years.”



(Above) FOCUSED- Monarch sophomore guard Jaqueline Privado drives in to score in a playoff match Saturday against Moorpark.



(Right) CONTESTED- Monarch sophomore guard Leena Vo sets up for a three pointer against Moorpark defender Kaydn Mew.