



**VALLEY LIFE: JOHNNY HATCH**  
CHRISTINA CANNARELLA AND JOHNNY HATCH ADVOCATE FOR INCLUSIVITY.

# the VALLEY STAR

The Independent Student Newspaper of Los Angeles Valley College



**SPORTS: PITCH IT FOWARD**  
NEW MONARCH RECRUIT BRETT EDWARDS IS SET TO TAKE THE MOUND NEXT SEASON.

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## Bond in Measure LA

CASSANDRA NAVA  
MANAGING EDITOR

Since 2001, the Los Angeles Community College District has acquired \$9.6 billion in taxpayer approved bond measures, with \$3.6 billion unspent but earmarked. This midterm election, Angelenos will be asked to approve Measure LA, a \$5.3 billion bond measure — the biggest in LACCD history.

Taxpayers could see an increase of \$88 and \$157 annually, which is estimated to be paid off sometime between 2045 and 2063.

Four LACCD bond measures have passed within two decades, all dedicated to renovating the nine district campuses. Across the district, a total of 757 projects have been completed. The two most recently approved measures, 2008's Measure J for \$3.5 billion and 2016's Measure CC for \$3.3 billion, both of which are still being paid off by taxpayers, are earmarked for specific projects.

Measure LA is endorsed by the LA Times, stating that an investment in community college infrastructure would benefit current and future students. James McKeever, AFT 1521 faculty guild president, endorsed the measure and stated that funds are critical towards university transfer preparation and overall student momentum.

The most vocal opponents of the bond measure belong to the Libertarian Party of California, who argue that the funds will not be allocated as promised and there will be insufficient oversight. One member of the current LACCD Board of Trustees, Earnest Moreno, voted against the bond's approval at a board meeting. He stated that due to declining enrollment and an unstable economy, the district should not be asking for the large sum.

The LACCD assessed the funds needed for pre-1970's buildings at \$1.3 billion, infrastructure at \$734 million, technology at \$300 million, sustainability at \$687 million and athletic facilities at \$163 million.

Valley will see an estimated \$496 million if Measure LA is passed, with the largest allocation of funds going to renovating pre-1970s buildings for about \$199.2 million.

The full text of Measure LA specifies "accountability safeguards" which include annual independent financial audits, a required disclosure of spending and a clarification that no funds will be spent on administrators' salaries and pensions.

Since 2001, a 16 member District Citizens Oversight Committee has met to discuss the year end budget report. The committee's purpose is to keep track of bond funds and ensure that the district is honoring the voters.

Currently, Valley has three active construction projects; the Valley Academic and Cultural Center, the Gym Complex (phase two) and the facade of the Allied Health and Science Center. Overall campus infrastructure is experiencing renovation as well, with a focus on energy infrastructure, data lines and security system improvements.

Valley's long awaited VACC building is at an estimated 89 percent completion, scheduled to open its doors next spring.



GRIFFIN O'ROURKE | VALLEY STAR

**MUERTOS-** Valley College hosted a Dia De Los Muertos altar competition yesterday in Monarch Hall. The event began with a blessing ceremony before Tlanextli Aztec fire dancers, Martin Tellez, Mayahuel Tellez, Guadalupe Tellez and Itzcoatl Tellez, performed cultural Aztec dances. Wearing traditional Aztec clothing, one dancer manipulated fire, making it travel from his hand to his foot. The second group of performers were called The Hummingbird in Nahuatl Grupo Folklorico Huitzilin. Kathy Leon, Diana Cabral, Daniela Rosas, Anthony Carrillo and Adrian Castellon performed dances from Jalisco, Mexico. The movements they did involved the women holding the end of their escaramuza dresses while they danced with the men who wore a traditional outfit derived from Traje Charro clothing. After the dances concluded, a competition was held in which Monarchs made altars, adorned with food and drinks, dedicated to their loved ones who have passed away. Orange marigold flowers surrounded some of the altars in addition to candles.

— TEXT BY ERIKA ZUNIGA

## Catalytic catastrophe

Auto theft spikes have been linked to precious metal shortage.

ASHER MILES  
STAFF WRITER

Mario Chutin, service manager of Keyes Toyota on Van Nuys Blvd, was expecting a typical day at his auto service provider until his team delivered a Toyota Tundra to one of their clients.

**“When we went to deliver them you could hear that loud, booming sound and we knew they had been stolen.”**

*- Mario Chutin, service manager at Keyes Toyota on Van Nuys Blvd.*

Video recordings from the secure Keyes lot reveal an overnight coordinated theft of four catalytic converters from Toyota trucks. The Tundras had their catalytic converters cut out in a span of five minutes. Auto technicians did not realize they were stolen until they had delivered the trucks to the client.

“When we went to deliver them you could hear that loud, booming sound, and we knew they had been stolen,” said Chutin.

Cars with easily accessible catalytic converters are becoming frequent targets, with a 12-fold spike in the auto theft of catalytic converters due to high demand for rhodium, a precious metal commonly found in the exhaust emission control device. The 90-second, almost surgical removal of converters has been a consistent headache for Prius and truck owners alike since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Right now we are working on around 10-15 cars, but we are running low on parts to fix the catalytic converter theft,” said Chutin. “Now they are sitting there and accumulating because we don't have parts.



JOSEPH ACUNA | VALLEY STAR

**COVERTER-** A catalytic converted attached underneath the cab of a Toyota Tacoma pickup truck.

According to charts available on Kitco, an online retailer of precious metals, the market value of rhodium has increased from around \$5,000 per ounce to \$13,800. The cause of the price spike is linked to the increased restrictions and shut down of South African rhodium mines. With the rare element becoming less and less available, thieves have capitalized its skyrocketing market value.

Once a thief has stolen a “cat,” a common shorthand for catalytic converter, they sell the auto part to a recycler who will pay around \$150-\$300 and a new converter can be made from the parts of the old one. To address the rising thefts, AB 1740 and SB 1087 were signed by Gov. Gavin Newsom mid-September. AB 1740 will require recyclers

to record the year, make, and model of the vehicle that the converter was removed from, along with the vehicle title. SB 1087 will make it illegal for people to buy a converter from anyone other than certified sellers.

Solutions to protect the “cats” from auto thieves include \$40 car alarms that go off when tampered with and “cat shields” ranging from \$200-\$500 that can be welded on to protect the converters. While “cat shields” and “cat clamps” have the best results to guard the catalytic converter, a determined thief can still find a way to obtain the precious metals to sell to recyclers. Some say that manufacturers should be required to engrave V.I.N. numbers onto the parts so they can be easily traceable. “You now have middlemen

who receive the converters, and then that guy turns them into the recyclers for a profit,” said detective Pereira from Van Nuys Police Department. “Until there is some entity that is able to push the manufacturers to do something, they won't. It's not cost effective for them. There is no blanket answer on what will take care of the problem.”

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

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## Seats up for vote

CASSANDRA NAVA  
MANAGING EDITOR

Angelenos can cast their vote between 11 candidates for four seats on the Los Angeles Community College District board, which oversees the nation's largest group of two year colleges.

The LACCD Board of Trustees is made up of seven members who each serve a term of four years, with an alternating election every two years. On Nov. 8, seats two, four, six and seven will be contested.

The role of a trustee is to create and administer policy measures. Notable district decisions include making the change to online courses due to COVID-19, implementing the (now defunct) Cleared4 system, signing the \$25 million LA Sheriff's Department contract and decisions specific to each campus.

Incumbent Steven Veres is running against Jason R. Aula and Glenn Trujillo Bailey for seat two. The trustee has been on the board since 2011 when he won with over 45 percent of votes. Aula is listed as a news reporter and business owner on the ballot. According to his official campaign website, Aula hopes to create NCAA football at City and Trade Tech colleges and resume Pierce College's farm operations. Bailey previously ran for seat five in 2020, where he lost to current board member Nichelle Henderson.

Seat four of the board will see three candidates as well, with incumbent Ernest H. Moreno running against Sara Hernandez and Christine T. Lamonica.

Moreno has been employed with the district for over 40 years, and has held his seat on the board since 2013. He was the sole member of the board opposed to Measure LA, the LACCD's \$5.3 billion bond on the midterm election ballot.

Hernandez is an attorney and an adjunct professor at Valley College where she teaches constitutional law. Her priorities include housing, boosting enrollment and addressing racism, per her official campaign website. Lamonica, a Valley alumna, currently teaches at CSUN. The professor hopes to address homelessness, part time faculty rights and expand community college trade programs.

Two candidates are running for seat six; incumbent Gabriel Buelna and Robert L. Payne. Buelna, the board president, was elected with 60 percent of the vote in 2017. Payne — listed as a writer, researcher and educator on the ballot — advocates for equal pay for adjunct faculty, more in-person classes and environmental innovations within college renovations.

Seat seven has three candidates; Mark Dutton, Nancy Pearlman and incumbent Kelsey Iino. The incumbent hopes to focus on housing and food insecurity amongst students. Dutton, a producer and writer, actively opposes Measure LA and calls for transparency within the district's funding. .

The special election of the seventh seat is a two year term only, following a vacancy created earlier this year when previous member Mike Fong was sworn in as an Assemblymember for the 49th district. On April 13, the LACCD board unanimously voted to appoint Iino to fill the vacancy.

November 8 is the last day to cast a ballot.



# Armenian diaspora panel held at Monarch Hall

The event featured a student panel of Armenian Student Association members.

ISAAC DEKTOR  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

A priest, a politician, a scholar, a tech CEO and a heavy metal singer make for an unlikely panel, but their overarching Armenian identity trumped any occupational differences as the group discussed what ultimately brought them to Monarch Hall on a Friday night — the diaspora.

Lily Sarafian, a staff member in Assemblyman Adrin Nazarian's office, moderated the first panel, which consisted of Armenian Student Association members from various colleges. ASU President Ani Ramazyon was a guest panelist. Moderated by Eliana Abovian of KTLA, the second panel of the night featured Nazarian, who represents the east San Fernando Valley through district 46 of the state assembly. Seated beside the assemblyman were four influential Armenian leaders: System of a Down vocalist Serj Tankin, Service Titan Co-founder and President Vahe Kuzoyan, Father Mesrop Ash of the St. John Armenian Apostolic Church and Shushan Karapetian, who holds a doctorate degree in Armenian studies from USC. Fifty audience members attended the event, which was part of a series entitled "Hyetalks," using the Armenian word "hye" that literally translates to "Armenia."

"As we all melt into one an-

other, right here in California and Los Angeles, that's gonna make us so much more powerful," said Nazarian. "That's what makes us very distinct and different. Some of those things that may have contributed to minor alienations or traumas or whatever else, I think are going to make us profoundly even stronger."

Having been born in Iran and emigrated to the U.S., the assemblymember's childhood diverged from his wife's, who was born in the U.S. and raised in Venezuela by her Turkish-Armenian family.

The discussion highlighted the variety of ways of thinking about Armenian identity as a result of the physical and cultural displacement of an entire people. Each panelist spoke of their individual experiences as Armenians growing up away from their homeland, which highlighted the impact of the diaspora on fragmenting and displacing a historically unified group of people.

Tankin, who advocated for the U.S. to recognize the Armenian genocide decades before President Joe Biden ultimately did so, spoke about learning how different Armenian communities experienced immigration to the U.S.

"I haven't been alienated nor experienced racism," said Tankin. "I learned about Fresno Armenians and how they experienced racism many years ago when the community was moving there and how horrible and difficult it was."



ISAAC DEKTOR | VALLEY STAR

VOCAL- Serj Tankin, an Armenian activist and System of a Down frontman spoke at Valley's panel last week.

The Armenian exodus created tight-knit communities all over the world throughout the last 100 years, largely as a result of the 1915 Armenian genocide perpetrated by the Ottoman Empire. Two panels, one

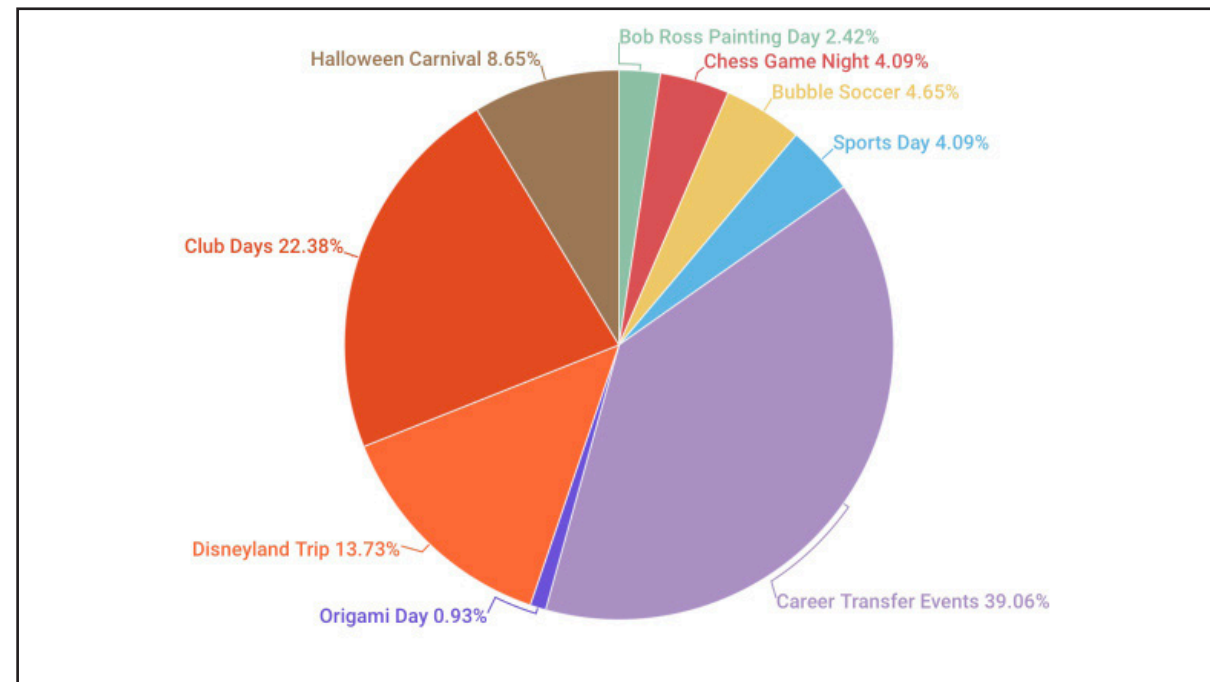
of ASA members and the other made up of Armenian leaders in a wide range of fields, discussed the diaspora, identity and the recent Nagorno-Karabakh War.

"My mouth goes everywhere; my justice goes everywhere,

including to my own people," said the musician and activist.

# Insurance issues deflate bubble soccer

After approving \$2,500 for a soccer event, the ASU was forced to call off the affair.



NATALIE METCALF | VALLEY STAR

ASU- The pie chart demonstrates the Associated Student's Union student event budget for the fall semester.

NATALIE METCALF  
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

After three deflated attempts by the Associated Student Union to bring bubble soccer to Valley College, the district rejected the idea and the event has officially been canceled.

At the beginning of the fall semester, the ASU allocated \$2,500 for three monthly bubble soccer events but the LACCD wanted \$5 million in liability insurance. The hefty price tag resulted in delays, causing the ASU to cancel bubble soccer twice in the span of one month.

The events were originally scheduled for September, October and November. In a last-ditch effort, Treasurer Diego Enriquez hoped Monarch Camps would take the reins but found no success.

"[Bubble Soccer] is not going to happen," said Enriquez, after making his last attempt to

put on the event. "I don't even try to think about it anymore. I just get angrier when I do."

According to Paul Magallanes, the executive director of Monarch Camps, the district contacted ASU about the insurance policy. Valley College President Barry Gribbons suggested the board reach out to Monarch Camps, a summer camp that is partnered with LACCD. Enriquez stated the bubble soccer vendor was willing to allocate \$2 million dollars for the policy, with Monarch Camps allocating the remaining \$3 million.

According to Magallanes, Monarch Camps was only going to be an approved vendor for the event on Oct. 17.

The treasurer also stated bubble soccer was denied by the district. Now it will be attempted to make the event happen one more time by changing the way the event is proposed. Enriquez said they will inform the district Monarch Camps will run the event with ASU partnering in order to host the event. This will lead to the camps taking liability for the event in the event of injuries. Leaving Valley and the district free of the fear of legal action.

Per its name, bubble soccer is playing soccer while being

encased in a bubble. Players are covered from head to knee in a plastic bubble while playing the sport. Monarch Camps offers a variety of sports activities on their website. Even though bubble soccer is not listed, the program does not limit its activities to just that specific list.

"Bubble soccer would be a safe event with the right location and the proper tools," said first-year student accounting major, Brayan Serra.

According to the National Library of Medicine, bubble soccer has high injury incidences. If not properly protected, players can receive a concussion or other head injuries. NLM conducted a study of 145 bubble soccer players in 2020. During the game, 58 players sustained 94 injuries, the most common injuries being head trauma and bruises.

"ASU worked so hard to find ways to make it happen," said President Ani Ramazyan. "It was going to be a fun event for students to come and network with each other."

## NEWS BRIEFS

### DACA's future uncertain

The LACCD continues to encourage DACA students to enroll or stay enrolled in their district despite the Fifth circuit U.S. Court of Appeals affirming that DACA is illegal.

DACA, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, is a relief program that allows eligible immigrants who came to the U.S. when they were children to avoid deportation. The Fifth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals' decision comes on the heels of the Texas V. United States DACA case where that ruled DACA unlawful. The Biden Administration appealed the decision to the Fifth Circuit. In July 2022, oral argument took place at the Fifth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals for the case. As the case was still processing, the Biden Administration published their final rule on DACA, to maintain it, on Aug. 2022 but will take effect Oct. 31 2022. Finally finishing the case on Oct. 5, the Fifth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals published the decision on the case affirming that DACA is illegal.

"LACCD has a dedicated history of advocating for the rights of our undocumented community," said Francisco C. Rodriguez, LACCD Chancellor. "Our longstanding advocacy shows a fierce defense of supporting our DACA and undocumented students. We will always stand with our students and with the most vulnerable populations — our support remains unwavering."

According to the Rodriguez, LACCD's nine colleges educate more undocumented students than anywhere in the country and will use all available resources to protect the over 10,000 undocumented students enrolled.

While the DACA program is thrown into the air on where it stands, DACA renewals are still open but could change. The case is currently sent back down to the Texas district court to determine the lawfulness of the Biden Administration's new rule on DACA.

By Kevin Zuniga, Staff Writer

### Cyanotype art workshop

Valley College hosted a cyanotype artmaking workshop last Wednesday in the art gallery. These works display the apparent presence of the artist's hand in the creation of art, or the way the artwork demonstrates its production.

The event started with Joshua West Smith from LA Trade Tech talking about a cyano painting, which is what students were going to be creating during the workshop. All the materials were provided for free. Smith, who was the professor in charge of the workshop, explained cyanotypes offer a quick way to make images. The techniques he used consisted of blue cyanotype paper to draw something and transferring the drawing to cyano paper.

"Before I made photographs part of my art, I was attracted to the work of early photographers who captured images of new landscapes and the vastness of nature," said Smith during the event. "Now for myself, I am attracted to photography for its ability to capture a moment which I see as having a lot of poetic potential."

Cyanotypes are one of the oldest photographic printing processes in the history of photography. The distinctive feature of the print is its shade of cyan blue, which results from its exposure to ultraviolet light. When the blueprint emerged, cyanotypes were traditionally used for reproducing the technical drawings of architects and engineers until the arrival of photocopy machines.

Jenene Nagy, the art director at Valley, typically offers lectures and workshops highlighting the artists and themes presented on campus. The department collaborates with other departments on campus and Valley Special Programs to develop meaningful content for a wide-ranging audience. Their goal is to offer art experiences that are accessible and diverse. Nagy opens the space to highlight other college initiatives, such as One Book One College and Foster Care Awareness Month.

By Erika Zuniga, Staff Writer

the  
**VALLEY STAR**  
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# Cannarella and Hatch: Champions of inclusion

## Two members of the abilities club are spearheading inclusivity in classrooms.

AVA ROSATE  
STAFF WRITER

Pioneers of inclusive learning, Christina Cannarella and her son Johnny Hatch, advocate for the rights of disabled students in traditional classrooms.

Hatch is 24 years old and lives with autism. The second year Valley College student is considered a non typical communicator — he expresses himself with physical touch, vocal sounds and facial expressions. In 2003, Cannarella made the decision to move to California from Wisconsin with her son so he could attend a school that was aligned with their beliefs. In the 13 years Hatch has been in the education system, he had never been enrolled in a special education class.

The broadcasting student spent kindergarten through eighth grade in a school that fostered a more inclusive learning environment — when children with learning disabilities and children without disabilities are taught in the same classroom and slight modifications are added to the course.

Hatch has never been placed in a strictly special education class, so when he entered high school, his mother had to make the decision to put him in a school where he would be the only student with special needs in a traditional classroom and risk bullying or, he could attend school where he would exclusively be in a special education class.

As Hatch is socially motivated by his peers, Cannarella, knowing the risks associated with a standard class, made the ultimate decision to enroll her son in a standard classroom where he can interact with other students.

“He needed to be around people,” said the 54-year-old mother. “He started walking at 3 years old because he saw the other children around him doing it. He is motivated by the people around him.”

After graduating from Taft High School, Hatch enrolled into a school exclusively for young adults with learning disabilities. There his mother connected with a parent of a young adult who was interested in enrolling at Valley. Curious as to what the campus had to offer, Cannarella visited Valley and immediately found a community that would suit her and her son’s needs.

The first class the mother and son duo took together was a



AVA ROSATE | VALLEY STAR

BROADCAST - Johnny Hatch uses the camera in his broadcasting class, with assistance from Christina Cannarella, his mother.

physical education class, where Dave Mallas, Valley’s athletic director, welcomed the pair with open arms. Their meeting snowballed into Cannarella embedding herself in the Valley community, speaking at two district meetings involving special needs students, becoming close with faculty and staff and earning the position of vice president of the Abilities Club.

Now they are taking a broadcasting course that encourages hands-on learning by using camera and audio equipment.

Though the broadcasting student is allowed to enroll in any class he chooses, his mother is looking for hands-on courses, where he can have direct help from teachers. Due to common class curriculums based on textbook readings, most courses lack the inclusion efforts that would benefit other students like Hatch.

According to the vice president of the Abilities Club, many people retain information when paired with hands-on learning. If the courses were slightly modified for the disabled, it would benefit all of the students in the class.

“Integration is allowing people with learning challenges to learn the same way as people without those challenges,” said Cannarella. “Inclusion is slightly modifying the course to better accommodate all students.”



AVA ROSATE | VALLEY STAR

COMMUNICATION - Christina Cannarella has to pay close attention to facial expressions, vocal sounds and physical touch of her son Johnny Hatch. These are the ways he communicates with his mom.

# Political expression expanded at Valley

## The seventh free concert rang with themes of political expression from seven countries.

ASHER MILES  
STAFF WRITER

Acapella renditions of national anthems filled the corners of the recital hall, taking the 60 audience members on a musical tour of worldwide identities.

The seventh concert, entitled “Music for Political Expression: National Identity,” explored seven national anthems with performances from five applied music program students and concert organizer Christian Nova. The performances were accompanied by music department faculty members Randy Drake on the cajon and Frank Garvey on piano. Each performer provided an English translation for parts of the lyrics for audience members.

“Keep in mind what the words are saying,” said Nova as he introduced the performers. “Many times national anthems have lyrics about the land, the ocean or the community while also contain-

ing the hopes of the people.”

The audience heard a brass rendition of the “U.S. National Anthem” to start the recital, performed by applied music student Jesus Jauregui on the sousaphone, a brass instrument specifically made for marching bands, with an upward-facing bell. The closing number, “Amazing Grace,” was played by Jauregui and fellow student Diana Aleman as a brass duet.

A rhythmic Peruvian cajon duet carried the midpoint of the show, featuring student Mia Flaich and instructor Randy Drake. The duo also performed acapella arrangements of the Japanese and Guatemalan national anthems.

“I thought about using a background track, but then I was thinking about how it’s really short and how the words are very poetic,” said Mio Asakura. “It’s also the way that I like listening to the song. So I decided why not do it acapella.”

Nova entranced the audience with his baritone pipes

in the “National Anthem of Sweden” and “Number 8 from The King’s Jubilee.” The second piece told the story of Swedish explorers who travel to the North Pole by hot air balloon.

The next free concert will be on Wednesday, Nov. 9, and will feature the theme of Functional Music - Music for Spiritual Expression.” All concert dates can be found on the Valley College website in the calendar.

UPCOMING CONCERTS

Nov. 9

The Valley College Choir features Mio Asakura, Glenn Carlos and Patricia Hannifan. This concert will be conducted by faculty member Frank Garvey

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JEREMY RUIZ | VALLEY STAR

MUSIC - Jesus Juaregui is a music major who performed “The Star-Spangled Banner” and “Amazing Grace” on the sousaphone during a concert held in the music recital hall on Oct. 26. Photo taken during another performance within the music recital hall.



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Ballot Propositions & Measures

The Valley Star staff endorses the following propositions and measures that voters will find on their ballots this election season. The editorial staff deemed these propositions relevant to Valley College.

Prop. 1

Codifies the right to an abortion in California’s constitution. The proposition comes after the Supreme Court’s decision to overturn Roe v. Wade and the last fifty years of precedent for federal abortion protections with it.  
**Star’s pick:** Protecting a woman’s right to choose is a no brainer.

☒

YES

☐

NO

Prop. 28

Prop. 28 would ensure funding for arts and music education for K-12 students in every public school in the state. It is an improvement on 1988’s Prop 98, which required a minimum funding level for K-12 education.  
**Star’s pick:** Guaranteed minimum funding for arts and music in the state’s public schools is long overdue.

☒

YES

☐

NO

Prop. 26

Prop. 26 would legalize sports betting and formerly prohibited casino games such as roulette and dice at casinos on Native American reservations and racetracks. Tax revenue would support the state’s schools and discretionary spending.  
**Proponents:** Native american tribes, i.e federated Indians of Graton Rancheria.  
**Opponents:** Taxpayers Against Special Interest Monopolies is the main opposition.  
**Star’s pick:** California tribes deserve the exclusive right to certain forms of gambling in the state.

☒

YES

☐

NO

Prop. 27

Prop 27 would legalize online sports betting in California. Tax revenue would go to social programs.  
**Proponents:** Online sports gambling companies including Draftkings, FanDuel and BetMGM.  
**Opponents:** Over 80 native american tribes oppose the proposition including the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians.  
**Star’s pick:** If passed, this measure will fuel gambling addiction while allowing gambling companies to directly compete with casinos on tribal lands.

☐

YES

☒

NO

Prop. 30

Tax hike on high income households to be spent on zero-emission vehicle infrastructure and subsidies and wildfire prevention.  
**Proponents:** Ride share companies are obligated to transition to zero-emission vehicle fleets and hope taxpayers share the burdon in creating the infrastructure.  
**Opponents:** Gov. Gavin Newsom opposes the proposition claiming the rideshare companies are proposing that taxpayers pick up the tab for their transition to zero-emission vehicles.  
**Star’s pick:** Taxing corporations and wealthy individuals is necessary in the transition to green energy.

☒

YES

☐

NO

Prop. 31

Prop. 12 make SB 793, a 2020 bill banning the sale of flavored tobacco products in California, go into effect. Studies have found that children use electronic nicotine delivery systems, which employ an abundance of flavored products, at higher rates than adults.  
**Proponents:** Gov. Gavin Newsom, the Democratic Party of California and the California Teachers Association support this proposition.  
**Opponents:** R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company, Philip Morris USA and the Republican Party of California oppose this proposition.  
**Star’s pick:** This proposition is necessary to stop pernicious tobacco companies from marketing to children.

☒

YES

☐

NO



ILLUSTRATION BY JACKSON LACKEY | SPECIAL TO THE STAR

Measure ULA

Dubbed the “mansion tax,” measure ULA proposes a four percent tax hike on real estate transactions over \$5 million, rising to 5.5 percent on sales over \$10 million. The near \$1 billion in tax revenue each year would be used to fund affordable housing and rental subsidies  
**Proponents:** Affordable housing developers, homeless service providers, renters rights groups, unions; the people back this measure.  
**Opponents:** LA County Business Federation, LA real estate agents. Real estate interest groups oppose any tax that could adversely effect their bottom line.  
**Star’s pick:** Working class people are getting priced out of the city. This measure will combat that.

☒

YES

☐

NO

Measure LA

Measure LA would grant the Los Angeles Community College District \$5.3 billion, the biggest bond measure by the district to date, to be used for renovations, major construction projects and other expenses. Taxpayers could see an annual increase of \$88 and \$157 that would be paid off between 2045 and 2063.  
**Proponents:** The LA Times and all but one district board of trustee supports the measure.  
**Opponents:** LACCD trustee Earnest H. Moreno.  
**Star’s pick:** As students within the district, the Star staff opposes this measure on the grounds that the district frequently demonstrates financial irresponsibility.

☐

YES

☒

NO

Measure SP

Measure SP would establish a tax of 8.4 cents per square foot, dropping to 2.2 cents after 30 years. Tax revenue projected at \$227 million per year, and \$60 million annually thereafter. Funds go to spruce up the city’s parks.  
**Proponents:** L.A. Parks Foundation and City Councilman Joe Buscaino.  
**Opponents:** Arguments include tax hike is not fully fleshed out and how the money will be spent is vague. Some argue the tax hike is a subsidy for improvements to the city ahead of the 2028 Olympics.  
**Star’s pick:** This measure would raise taxes for everybody in the city and could also drive up rents while displacing unhoused resident without an alternative.

☐

YES

☒

NO

MEASURE A

If passed, measure A would give the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors the power to impeach a sheriff for cause by a four fifths vote.  
**Proponents:** LA County Supervisors Sheila Kuehl, Holly Mitchell and Hilda Solis support this measure.  
**Opponents:** Sheriff Alex Villanueva and LA County Supervisor Kathryn Barger oppose this measure.  
**Star’s pick:** Deputy gangs in the LASD and abuses in county prisons have long plagued Angelenos. These issues may predate the current sheriff, but harmful rhetoric has fueled public interest in police reform. Giving the board of supervisors the ability to impeach a sitting sheriff will serve as a guardrail in the future.

☒

YES

☐

NO



# Trust in district not concrete

With one building under litigation and a subpar track-record, the LACCD is not in a good position to ask for more money.

STAFF EDITORIAL

Following years of reported mismanagement within the district's major construction projects, the LACCD is asking for its biggest bond request to date this election. Before constituents fork out billions of dollars, the district owes taxpayers an explanation for the recurring delays and waste in its major construction projects.

Voters can easily read reports about the wrongful allocation of funds, and they can see the slow progress on the Valley Academic and Cultural Center, a building which has already been delayed four years.

The building's unfinished facade, which had to be reinstalled at the district's request for reasons that are unclear to contractors and administrators alike, is on full display on Oxnard Street. While the dollar amount for re-installing the exterior paneling is up for debate, the decision caused a projected delay of 200 days.

Prior to the facade fiasco, district representatives went to war with third-party contractors over the construction of the tall walls in the main stage theater. An independent arbitrator found the district primarily at fault for the multi-year delay that ensued, in addition to the over \$3 million in unnecessary costs.

The district's response to the arbitration leaves much to be desired, as a district repre-

sentative downplayed the delays, claiming that this was the first of all district construction projects to go into litigation.

Valley's issues do not lie solely on the long awaited VACC. Allied Health and Sciences, the three-story behemoth of a building adjacent to Ethel Avenue, had an original guaranteed maximum price of \$48 million to build, but needed an additional \$3.5 million to fix construction issues.

If asking for more money is proven to be the rule and not the exception, then taxpayers should not trust a district with projects that come in overbudget.

In a July district board meeting discussing Measure LA, Trustee Earnest Moreno feared that in renovating the colleges, the district would build "ghost towns."

Valley's headcount has declined by 1,742 students from the 2020-21 school year to the 2021-22 year, an overarching theme seen throughout the nine colleges.

Since 2001, the year the first bond measure was passed, the LACCD promised demolition and renovations of pre-1970's buildings. About \$9.6 billion later, renovations are still a priority for all nine colleges. Shiny but shoddy new buildings were erected on campuses, while prehistoric buildings remained in place. If voters pass the bond, Valley could receive close to \$2 million in order to renovate those buildings.

The LACCD's oversight system, District Citizens' Oversight



ONGOING- Construction workers outside the Valley Academic and Cultural Center at Valley College Oct. 18. The building complex, which has been delayed four year, includes multiple theaters.

Committee, was formed months after the first bond measure passed in 2001. The group, consisting of different organizations including business, labor, taxpayer, college foundation and senior citizen, confers with an independent audit team that presents reviews of bond measure implementation and progress reports.

Although these internal presentations are necessary, the district must be forthright with construction and renovation issues. Taxpayers are still indebted to 2008 and 2016 bond measures, giving them the right to know the progress on the buildings meant to educate the future of Los Angeles.

While the editorial staff agrees that money spent on education is money well spent. To request additional funds, the district needs to implement a harsher watchdog system to prevent the waste of taxpayer dollars.

# Bass' Goliath

The city is at a crossroads as Angelenos decide who will be their next mayor, a community organizer committed to systemic reform or a real estate behemoth with a business-first axiom.

ISAAC DEKTOR  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Rick Caruso is the car mechanic who leaves one screw loose so that customers return in a panic. "That's why I buy American," he would say as he fumbles around the Toyota, trying to fix the problem that he created.

Holistic solutions take time, especially when reform is needed at a systemic level. Extreme levels of homelessness in LA, which is a key issue for voters up and down the ballot, is a consequence of a vast assortment of issues ranging from lack of affordable housing to untreated mental illness. Fed up with the housing shortage and politics of slow change, Angelenos might be conned into electing a man with no experience and who contributed to the problems he is campaigning on fixing.

A few weeks ago, Bass was in good shape to win the runoff and pick up where Mayor Eric Garcetti is leaving off when he takes up his new job as ambassador to India. Securing over 43 percent of the vote in the primary, the congresswomen could bank on voters from the other two progressive candidates moving to her tent for the runoff election. Then a leaked audio recording exposed three councilmembers in a gerrymandering scandal that

rocked the city, shaking up an already close mayoral race. The scandal clouded councilmember Kevin de Leon in controversy.

De Leon ran in the mayoral primary, winning almost eight percent of the vote. With Black Lives Matter endorsed candidate Gina Viola, who won seven percent in the primary, out of the race, Bass stands to gain those progressive voters. The scandal that led to Nury Martinez's resignation may also allow political outsider and self-funded Caruso to garner votes from de Leon's supporters.

Caruso's political messaging is directed at the disaffected voter, and his position of being a political outsider could benefit him amid the scandal.

"They went into a back room to carve up this city for their own special interest, for themselves. This system is so broken and it's full of corruption," said Caruso in a debate days after the leak. "The reason homelessness is out of control is because the system is broken. The reason crime is out of control is because the system is broken. We need new leadership, leadership that isn't corrupt."

The position has echoes of former President Donald Trump's campaign messaging of 2016 that led to four orange years. Much like "drain the swamp," Caruso's campaign messaging paints the billionaire candidate as a hard-working businessman who



DEMOCRAT- Representative Karen Bass takes the stage with her daughter and grandson at a mayoral rally in Central Park at Playa Vista with less than two weeks left before election day.

became immensely successful despite government regulation.

Bass has been outspent eight to one in the mayoral race, with real estate developer Caruso pouring over \$80 million of his own money into his campaign.

Bass strongly believes in providing unconditional housing provisions to people experiencing homelessness, an approach called "housing first," as a solution to the worsening crisis. Caruso's plan involves building 30,000 temporary shelters and declaring a local state of emergency.

"If we don't win this election, we will return to failed solutions," said Bass. "With me, what you see is what you get - a life-long pro choice democrat who has always been on your side."

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



BURN- Bernie Sanders showed up to Bass' rally and took to the podium with a speech bashing billionaires for making record profits while the working class struggles.

# Vote grassroots; vote Duenas

ASHER MILES  
STAFF WRITER

The special-interest-free and grassroots-funded challenger, Angelica Duenas, is growing a movement to oust corporate Democrat and incumbent Representative Tony Cardenas in California's 29th Congressional District.

Running a non-stop political campaign focused on San Fernando Valley residents' accessibility to resources, she starkly contrasts her political rival's impossible-to-contact staff. The Valley-raised and educated activist, whose progressive policies align with the needs of constituents, is a far better pick than the corporate-owned and funded Cardenas.

The second-time candidate and Valley alumna lost her first race for candidacy in 2020 to the incumbent by 16 points. This time around, her campaign is sporting an increase in small-dollar donors while Cardenas continues to receive large contributions from out-of-state corporations. The grassroots candidate is focusing on universal health-care, a Green New Deal, and affordable housing to resolve LA's homelessness problem.

"My plan is to declare a state of emergency across the nation," said Duenas. "Refugees from other states and counties come to southern California for our resources, therefore, we have to loosen our resources for them. We have luxury housing, but not affordable housing. We have mismanagement of our resources across the board."

According to the Federal Election Committee's website, Cardenas' total campaign contributions cumulated to just under \$1.5 million dollars. His top donors are the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, Act Blue, and J.P. Morgan. Along with receiving millions from corporate and special-interest groups, the Pacoima native is running his campaign on Animal Rights, equality within the justice system, and providing affordable solar energies to communities in the United States.

The 29th District representative is a member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the New Coalition Democrats, and the Congressional Arts and Hispanic Caucus.

The Valley representative's office did not respond to the Star's multiple requests for comment.

The 29th district includes Arleta, Mission Hills, North Hollywood, Pacoima, San Fernando, Studio City, Van Nuys, and Valley Village.

While Duenas has raised less than 10% of campaign funds compared to Córdenas, she still has high hopes to win district 29 through progressive policies, by knocking door-to-door, and emphasizing that her campaign is not funded by corporate PAC money.

"I want to be beholden to the people and not special money," the Sun Valley native proclaimed. "I was inspired by the likes of Bernie Sanders and I want to show Californians that grass-root funded campaigns may have a harder time winning, but can win. It's time to create a new standard for campaigns around America."

Duenas' 30-plus years of Sun Valley residence garnered a comprehensive knowledge of the demands of the 29th district, earning her the endorsement of the Valley Star.



# Jaime Roisman proudly shares his story at Valley

The Pride+ president provides resources and support for his fellow queer-identifying peers.

NATALIE METCALF  
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

Jaime Roisman's coming out story begins with one question asked to his mother — "would you still love me if I was a lesbian?" Unapologetic self-expression and a flamboyant style embody Roisman's leadership in Valley College's Pride+ club. Roisman's journey of self-actualization has involved a series of coming out in his life, first identifying as a lesbian in middle school. As time went on he came out as transgender, feeling his happiest using male identifying pronouns. Now the second-year art major identifies as bi-gender, a term that is under the umbrella of non-binary. Roisman is taking testosterone at the moment and has already gone through with top surgery. "I am bi-gender but I only use male pronouns," said Roisman when sharing his gender identity. "That's what I feel most comfortable with; I have dysphoria relating to female pronouns. Male pronouns make me happy, they give me gender euphoria." Roisman also identifies as transmasculine, meaning he is transitioning in a masculine direction. The Pride+ president's encyclopedic knowledge

of queer terms is resourceful in a leadership position within a diverse community.

**"I love being trans-gender and I love being gay. I wear dresses, skirts and makeup. It's all for myself."**  
- Jamie Roisman

"There is no one size fits all when it comes to coming out, transitioning and identity," said Roisman. "People with the same identity can have vastly different experiences. The only way we can get to equity and equality within the queer community is by understanding that you won't ever fully understand [your identity.]" Roisman's style is a major part of his identity. As a bi-gender person, he wants his body to present masculinity, but he enjoys dressing more femininely. Roisman described when he was younger he wore all black.



JEREMY RUIZ | VALLEY STAR  
PROUD- Jaime Roisman, president of the Pride+ Club at Valley College, is currently double majoring in art and communications. Photo taken near the Foreign Languages building.

Until he was more comfortable with his identity he experimented with different styles, including a spiked choker necklace. "The more I came into my identity and mental health, I realized I like the color pink," said the Pride president. "I love being transgender and I love being gay. I wear dresses, skirts

and makeup. It's all for myself." Recently he reconnected with his cousin Zandra , who is a part of the LGBTQIA community herself. Roisman found his

# Valley arms students in fight against domestic violence

The Student Health Center held a self-defense workshop in honor of Domestic Violence Awareness Month.



AVA ROSATE | VALLEY STAR  
WORKSHOP- Lily Fuentes practices escaping a chokehold with instructor Vanessa Carlisle at the Student Health Center's domestic violence workshop in honor of Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October.

AVA ROSATE  
STAFF WRITER

Valley College brought Domestic Violence Awareness Month on campus with a self defense workshop on Wednesday in the Student Union Skybox.

**"Most self defense classes are designed to train you for defense against a stranger, but few train for defense against an intimate partner."**  
- Vanessa Carlisle, Self defense instructor

Led in three parts, the workshop's opening topic explained the cycle of violence that is apparent in abusive relationships and how to detect early signs of aggression in a relationship. Domestic violence survivor Vanessa Carlisle led the workshop. Carlisle holds a PHD in English literature and gender studies. After teaching at USC and CSUN, she now leads self defense courses so others are aware of the signs of domestic violence. The event

was designed to help students create healthy boundaries in relationships, understand the warning signs of a potentially violent relationship and to properly execute physical self defense moves. "Domestic violence is an epidemic,"said Carlisle. "Most self defense classes are designed to train you for defense against a stranger, but few train for defense against an intimate partner." One in four women has experienced severe physical violence by a domestic partner, for men it is one in seven. The USC graduate explained that the cycle begins with 'calm' tendencies such as gift giving and promises of commitment. But soon 'tension' — small verbal flare ups and indirect aggression will set in, leaving the victim feeling like they are walking on eggshells around the person. Ultimately the cycle leads to violence. After the violent episode a sense of calm ensues and the cycle begins again. The event's second part taught physical escape and de-escalation techniques that can be used when in threat of physical danger. The demonstrations included breaking a chokehold, escaping from a tight wrist grip and stances to maintain balance. "When you're in a life threatening situation, your body will either freeze or fight back," explained the workshop leader, "these techniques are to give your body some

time to think before freezing." The event closed with lunch provided by Sharkey's and a written scenario game. Attendees were given a written prompt with a situation that people in abusive relationships might encounter such as jealousy and controlling behavior. The participants were asked to give an explanation as to how they might de-escalate the situation. Monarchs in attendance left with a general understanding of how to navigate violent situations. "The workshop gave me confidence. It helped me become aware of potentially dangerous situations in relationships," said Lilly Fuentes, a student at the workshop. "I am glad I have some knowledge of defense, now I know what my body can do to keep me safe." College aged women are most at risk of domestic violence. According to the National Statistics of Domestic Violence, women between the ages of 18-24 are most commonly abused by a domestic partner. Even though the Los Angeles Police Department files 15,000 reports and makes 6,000 arrests a year for domestic violence, which averages out to 41 reports and 16 arrests a day, half of all domestic violence cases go unreported in fear of retaliation or causing more harm to the situation. The phone number to the National Domestic Violence Hotline is 1(800) 799-7233.

# Monarch Memory: A bi-weekly look back at campus news

The Valley Star dug through its archives and found an article from 1962 detailing construction updates.



PLANETARIUM PLANS- Robert Olson (l), chief building inspector, and Robert Cole, dean of special service, look over the plans for the Valley College planetarium. The exterior of the planetarium is 90 percent completed. Completion of Phase III, which includes the planetarium, is scheduled for early fall of next year.

# Completion of phase 3 planned for Fall 1963

JEFF SILLIFANT  
STAFF WRITER, CIRCA 1962

Despite sharp setbacks, the Phase 3 building program is rolling rapidly with the completion date now set for early fall — either October or November. An estimate of \$15,500 for exterior and interior furnishings was given as the cost for the 90 percent complete Planetarium exterior. Title 3 of the national defense provides the equipment furnished for Valley's dome-shaped facility. The dome itself is being provided through federal government funds. Field measurements this week will be taken on the dome. A representative from Overly Manufacturing Co. will take the measurements independent of the blueprint to achieve pinpoint accuracy. 'Imported' Dome The dome is prefabricated at the Greensburg, Penn., plant of Overly, is then shipped to Valley College and finally fitted,

in an extensive series of operations for exacting precision. Dean of special services Robert Cole said, "this unique planetarium displays a custom-made three-layer shell. First is the special outer aluminum dome. Under that is a wooden framework covering an inner perforated dome to show star positions." Light wells, Dean Cole explained, situated around the circumference of the inner shell, will enable full and different effects of night and day to be observed. "Much, of course, is left to be done interior-wise," said Cole. Phase 3 is far from finished. The recent vandalism was an unknown factor in considering the completion date also, he said. Projector Installed Yet to be done on the Planetarium's exterior is the green color coat and the roofing. Spitz Laboratories Inc. is reportedly installing the centrally located projector. Merco Construction Co. handles production for the Business-Journalism, Math-Science and Art Buildings, the health office, sanitary facilities, on-campus lighting and planetarium. All are under the same contract. All department representatives were instrumental in the interior design of facilities, said Cole. "They all met with architects to determine individual department needs." The new health office, scheduled for completion within the month, will, according to Cole, be more centrally located than the existing office and will also be out of the way of construction. The "bigger and better" health office houses two dressing rooms, a reception room, cot rooms, eye charts and scales. Drs. Sydney Liebman and Nona Gilbert, along with a nurse, Mrs. Jean Earhart, will work together a 40-hour 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. week, and function with the latest equipment. The modern facility is housed in the southwest wing of the Administration Building. On-campus lighting fixtures are in and all but turned on. Valley awaits only the arrival of electric parts. The lighting is a part of Valley's cam-

pus improvement program. Volleyball Courts The Burbank Boulevard parking lot, since its reopening Oct. 22, will enable the volleyball courts to be completed in the area north of the Men's Gym and west of the tennis courts used temporarily for parking. The courts, at the earliest, will be available for use in two months, said Cole. "The courts are being put in for the direct accessibility to both men and women," he said. Cole estimated the courts' cost as close to \$500. All parking lots are now in the final stage of completion and will represent permanent facilities. The total campus car capacity is 3,400 cars and is appropriated under Bond monies.



# Top tier pitching talent joins Monarchs



GRIFFIN O'ROURKE | VALLEY STAR

RECOVERY- Monarch pitcher Brett Edwards suffered torn ligaments in his elbow in August of 2021. Recovering from Tommy John surgery, his fastball tops out at 87 mph, 5 mph less than his top speed. The surgery was named after the former major league pitcher. The average recovery time is 9-12 months, with an 80-90% recovery rate.

## Former Division 1 pitcher comes to Valley looking to make a difference.

NICHOLAS OROZCO  
SPORTS EDITOR

With a personal record of 92 mph on the mound, former Cal State San Luis Obispo baseball player Brett Edwards is looking to bounce back from surgery and help the Monarchs reach new heights. The Santa Monica native moved to the central coast to play baseball for the Mustangs. Recently transferring to Valley College, the pitcher hopes to elevate the program by bringing a new type of energy. “I’ve seen what it takes to get to that level,” said Edwards. “I wanna bring that here.” The 20 year old has been

playing baseball since he was 4. Once he reached Pony, he earned a roster spot on the Santa Monica Pony Little League team that went to the world series. Hitting .375 in 16 games, Edwards also pitched in the finals against Puerto Rico. Powerhouse high-school programs like Harvard Westlake and Notre Dame began to notice him. Edwards decided to stay close to home and play for Santa Monica High School. “To be in Santa Monica. It was a place I knew I’d be comfortable,” said the 20-year-old. His career in high school was one for the books. As a senior with a shortened season due to COVID-19, he notched a 3-1 record with a stingy 0.28 ERA with 36 strikeouts over 25 innings. Edwards did not enjoy his short time at Cal Poly, so he left following his redshirt season.

“I’ve never been this excited before to play baseball,”  
- Brett Edwards

The pitcher felt his arm was being overused which he feels contributed to his Tommy John surgery. “We just threw so much at practice,” said the righty. “It was a lot of wear and tear

and definitely could have been added to my elbow [injury].” Tommy John surgery, is required once ligaments in the elbow have been overused and torn. In his case the entire ligament was torn and Edwards said “it was just not there.” “They basically told me the whole ligament was off the bone,” said the new Monarch. “The back part of my bone [elbow] was just not there.” With the pandemic and surgery it has been 14 months since he has been able to throw off the mound. “It’s been one of the hardest things I have had to go through,” said the freshman. “I went from working out a bunch and playing baseball and throwing every day, to not even being able to extend my arm. Edwards selected Valley for multiple reasons. An old friend, Miles Gravelle, is a catcher currently on the roster, pitching coach and the reputation of the Monarch program. “He’s a big worker,” said head coach Dave Mallas. “Since he’s been here, he’s worked his tail off to get healthy and back to where he needs to be.” With the addition of Edwards, the coaching staff said pitching will likely be one of its strengths this year, Edwards is happy to be here. “I’ve never been this excited before to play baseball,” said Edwards.

## Sports View

NICHOLAS OROZCO  
SPORTS EDITOR



Valley College football is hosting its final home game of the season Saturday. The game will honor their sophomores, and instead of calling it “sophomore night,” they are calling it the “Monarch Pride Classic.” With their four-month long season coming to end, the team plans to recognize the sophomores before the game. Monarch Football currently sits with an overall record 1-7, and they are 0-3 in conference. The team’s only win, 45-32, dates back to Sept. 17 at a home game against LA Southwest College. Their other matchups have been blowouts except one, against Victor Valley by the score 38-28. Valley looks to close out the season by adding two more wins to their record. Saturday’s match up they will be hosting Santa Monica College at 1 p.m.

Men’s water polo has made its way into the playoffs. With an overall record of 18-7 and conference record of 3-1, the Monarchs are peaking at the right time. The Monarchs achieved a perfect home record, and dropped seven games on the road. The men in green have built an impressive record as they have been participating in multiple high-level tournaments. Competing in the Golden West College, Cuesta College and Riverside College tournaments. Posting a perfect record in the Riverside tournament, the Monarchs have shown they are a force to be reckoned with. In the first week of conference play, the California Community College Athletic Association ranked the Monarchs at eighth, and as the regular season wraps up, the Monarchs find themselves ranked fourth. The Monarchs reached the finals in 2018 against Golden West College. That battle found the two top teams pitted against each other, but Golden West got the best of Valley. The squad will begin their trek back to the conference finals, in hopes of reaching state, with a match against Santa Monica, Saturday at Cuesta College beginning at 1:30 p.m. In their most recent match up the Monarchs blew out the Corsairs 23-4.

Monarch women’s soccer currently sits with an overall record of 5-12-2. In conference play, their record sits at 2-9. The only two wins in conference, come from teams with losing records. Their first conference win was a 4-1 victory over West LA College who have a current record of 1-15-2. The second triumph came over Glendale College 8-0. Glendale sits at 0-15 and sits in last place in the conference. Angie Diaz and Melanie Velasquez are currently ranked at two of the top 30 players in the state. Diaz is ranked 23rd with 13 goals, while Velasquez is ranked 27th with 12 goals. The two combined for 25 of the team’s 37 total goals. The team will face West LA for their final home game on Friday at 4 p.m.

# Monarch Water Polo blasts its way into playoffs

## Valley College will face the Santa Monica Corsairs in the first round at Cuesta College.



PHOTOS BY ASH SHAFI | VALLEY STAR

SHOT- Sophomore Sahak Abrahamyan aims for a shot against the Ventura Pirates on Wednesday during their last conference match up winning 25-2.

CONTEST- Freshman Casey Surber going up against Pirate Ramon Rodriguez looking to take a shot to add onto their score.



KEVIN KHACHATRYAN  
STAFF WRITER

Combining for a total of 44 goals over two games, the Valley College water polo team blew out both of their opponents last week. Winning by the scores of 25-2 and 19-6, Valley is now ranked 4th overall in conference. The Monarchs looked to make a statement prior to entering the playoffs. Hosting their final game of the regular season on Friday, the Monarchs (18-7) scored 10 straight goals to lead the game 10-0 in the second quarter against Rio Hondo College. The Monarchs scorched the Roadrunners by more than a dozen, winning the contest 19-6. Sophomore Sako Kaputikyan led the offense for the Monarchs in Friday’s first half, by netting four goals, dishing out two assists and collecting one steal. Sophomore Also in the first half, Hakop Ansuryan threw in two straight goals and assisted on three other goals. Sophomore Levon Harutyunyan scored the last two goals for Valley, and helped with three steals in the game. The Roadrunners only scored six goals in the contest, and the game was never close. Coach Jim McMillan said his team is hitting its stride.

“It’s what I’m expecting,” said McMillan. “All I can ask is for them is to give each other and the school their best efforts to see where we can go as a team together.” On Wednesday, Valley faced the Ventura College Pirates in their last conference matchup. The Monarchs outscored the Pirates 16-0 in the first half, picking up their final win in conference play 25-2. Sophomores Sako Kaputikyan, Erik Sarkissian and Ethan Francis steered the first half of the game for Valley. Sarkissian accounted for three goals in the first half. Kaputikyan scored three straight goals late in the first quarter to go along with three assists and five steals. Francis scored two goals in the second quarter and wrapped the game scoring two more goals in the second half, scoring four goals with three steals. Valley’s defense sank the Pirates offense as they allowed only two goals in the game. Late in the third quarter, sophomore Joe Lowry scored the only goal for the Pirates. Monarch freshman goalkeeper Ethan McHorney was active on the defensive side of the ball as he saved five shots in the contest, and the team combined to save a total of eleven shots for the game. “Just good effort and team defense,” said McMillan. “Everybody doing their





Griffin O'Rourke | Valley Star  
Professor Patrick Lyons examines a tide pool for sea life during a marine biology field class at low tide.



Jeremy Ruiz | Valley Star  
Aggregating and starburst are the most prevalent species of sea anemone in the pools near Malibu Pier. The students poked the animals with their fingers to gauge the physical reaction.



Griffin O'Rourke | Valley Star  
Pierce psychology student Andrew Nguyen examines a specimen at the intertidal beach.



Griffin O'Rourke | Valley Star  
(L-R) Students Andrew Nguyen and Miriam Hernandez traverse the algae-covered rocks at the Malibu Lagoon State Beach last Friday afternoon. The lab is a part of the Pathways and Career Exploration in STEM which is a combined 3-year program with Valley and Pierce College STEM students. The field lab program is designed to raise transfer rates to 4-year universities by exposing students to scientific research practice.

# CREATURES FROM THE MALIBU LAGOON

By Griffin O'Rourke | Photo Editor

The slow steps and careful eyes of Valley College students traversed the exposed slimy rocks of Malibu Lagoon State Beach on Friday evening during a low tide. From 3 p.m. till sunset, Marine Biologist and Professor Patrick J. Lyons led an expedition of 18 students over the rocky intertidal area in search of sea hares, anemones, mussels and the ever-elusive octopus. With a list of Latin names for the specimens they might encounter, Lyons showed the class what a real marine biology field lab looks like. Barnacles and algae-covered rocks revealed by the receding tide became obstacles that students struggled to maneuver. "If they're green, stay away," one student remarked about the slimy algae that covered most rocks. The students were a part of the special program called Pathways and Career Exploration in STEM (PaCES) which is open to STEM majors from Valley and Pierce College. The project is designed to raise transfer rates to 4-year universities by exposing students to field labs, research experience, internships and introductions to industry professionals. This semester, the program has been focused on research labs conducted in the field, like bug hunting and bird watching in the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve. The students look forward to an immersive one-week research experience at the USC Wrigley Research Institute on Catalina Island in January.



Ava Rosate | Valley Star  
Octopi are naturally elusive animals, but students found the cephalopod eating a crab in a rocky crevice.



Ava Rosate | Valley Star  
Students were encouraged to bring water shoes to help navigating the ankle-deep pools.