



VALLEY LIFE: GLASS CEILING
PRESIDENT OF DISNEY BRANDED TELEVISION AYO DAVIS SPOKE ON CAMPUS.



SPORTS: LADY MONARCHS
STUDENT ATHLETE LEENA VO MASTERFULLY JUGGLES ACADEMICS AND ATHLETICS.

Set back at VACC

GRIFFIN O'ROURKE
STAFF WRITER

The doors of the VACC building may remain closed to students for another year while Pinner Construction edges towards the July completion date.

Litigation and construction woes have long delayed the art facility for over five years. With the projected completion date around the corner, new complications arise. Pinner will finish the construction of the center, but descope of certain items and features, meaning replaced or reduced in design, will be handled by a different company hired by the district. Two thousand interior sound-dampening panels in most of the building's rooms will need to be removed, reinforced and reinstalled. Some stairways and ramps are too narrow and will have to be remade.

"I was told that they will have someone else come in after we complete [the building] and leave," said Pinner Construction Vice-President Robert Boyington. "We built it per plan and per specs, what they did is came in and made changes."

These revisions could take upwards of a year. Boyington does not think the VACC will be approved for occupation while the final construction measures take place due to safety concerns.

The LACCD and BuildLACCD have declined to comment on the VACC due to active litigation with the General Contractor, Pinner.

Pinner Construction is still dealing with problems of the design changes, some of which are compounded by poor weather. The Trespa paneling on the exterior of the complex is still being replaced, though progress has been impeded by the rain. Approval for the redesigned support beams in the VACC's roof have been pending approval from the Division of State Architects for two years. The air duct system exceeded the length of the original schematics, making a redesign necessary for the beams.

"We've worked on more complex, more expensive projects before. But this has been the most difficult by far," said Pinner's Chief Administrative Officer Newt Kellam.

Pinner's legal battle with the LACCD could last over a year after they leave the project site. The district is still reviewing Pinner's multiple claims for damages, which amounts to \$26 million. The claims were submitted last September. Once the reviews of the claims are finished, mandatory meetings between the district and the construction company will convene. Mediation and arbitration will follow soon after.

In August, the company filed a lawsuit with the Los Angeles County Superior Court. Pinner alleged that the district defrauded \$20 million from taxpayers and caused the company to lose \$24.8 million. The district filed an anti-slap motion, citing an intent to intimidate, because Pinner publicly named district officials on the project. The court overruled the motion and a hearing on the lawsuit will take place in June.



ELLI BAYATI | VALLEY STAR

GUN CONTROL- President Joe Biden visited Monterey Park on Tuesday and urged people for gun control following the events of Lunar New Year's Eve, when a gunman killed 11 people and injured nine. Biden delivered a speech and was joined with senator Alex Padilla, representative Judy Chu and Supervisor Hilda Solis. In his speech, the president announced a new executive order he hopes will combat gun violence by increasing the number of background checks. "We need to provide more mental health support and for grief and trauma and more financial assistance." Biden's budget request was released just last week and includes a \$90 billion request for the department of education.

- Text by Jasmine Alejandre

Campus Center pipe breaks again

Damages to the Campus Center left students and faculty scrambling.

JOSEPH ACUNA
& CASSANDRA NAVA
STAFF WRITERS

A pipe storing the campus' chilled water split at a coupling in Campus Center on March 1, causing a flood that resulted in power outages around campus. This pipe was the same culprit of the flood that occurred in 2020, which caused asbestos.

After water damaged the center's basement, 16 buildings were left without power while the remaining buildings utilized the emergency electricity system in place. The '70s era building stores the alpha data center for the school, which controls internet and lighting for the campus. Maintenance workers pumped at least five feet of water out of the center's basement, or about 37 gallons.

"The tunnel system was a total catastrophe," said General Foreman Brian Bietsch, in regards to the flooding.

A similar flood affected Campus Center three years ago. Asbestos was found in the basement, which led to abatement and tests that were interrupted due to burglaries and vandalism in the center.

Once the building was deemed free of asbestos, a grand opening of the Mosaic Village: Unity Center was celebrated last November. The village consisted of the Dream Resource Center, Rainbow Pride Center, Puente Program, Basic Needs Center, Umoja Black Scholars and the



GRIFFIN O'ROURKE | VALLEY STAR

DELUGE- Valley College Maintenance workers pump water out of the flooded east tunnel of the Central Plant on March 1.

Veterans Resource Center. The displaced programs are currently operating out of offices scattered throughout the campus.

This semester, Campus Center resumed its purpose as a hub of classrooms — for less than a month. Seventeen classes were held in the two-story building; six history, three political science and eight theater classes.

While professors were given the option to conduct their classes online following the closure of the center, they were encouraged to relocate to other buildings to resume in-person learning.

"Attendance is holding steady so far, and hopefully we will not

see any major decline as we have been moved to a newer building with better accommodations," said political science professor Samuel Lingrosso, who now teaches in the Administration and Career Advancement building.

Students whose classes were moved will remain in the appropriately set rooms that relate to their lessons being taught. Classes will not return to the Campus Center until the fail safes are checked, which include tests for asbestos and mold.

Testing for mold is more lenient than testing for asbestos. With mold, walls can be swabbed and carpets can be

tested within the building. Asbestos requires tests be done by a qualified laboratory per Environmental Protection Agency standards. The EPA recommends any damaged materials to be tested, which could range from \$8 to \$40 per square foot. The Campus Center is a 66,000 square foot structure, though only the basement was affected.

"A lot of praise to the Maintenance and Operations crew," said Dean of Academic Affairs Carmen Dominguez. "They were on their way home and came back when the power went out to get the Campus Center back and running throughout the weekend."

FBI at Valley

GRIFFIN O'ROURKE
STAFF WRITER

The FBI and LASD hazmat showed up on campus last month after the Valley College Sheriff's Department was handed a suspicious package.

After receiving a suspicious envelope in her mailbox, a local woman called the LAPD and was directed to report the crime to the nearest law enforcement office — Valley's sheriff station. The concerned woman handed the envelope, which contained a plastic bag filled with a white powder, to a security officer on campus and then left, leaving law enforcement concerned that it was a harmful substance.

"She handed the security officer an envelope containing the substance and then drove away after opening it," Deputy Mars said. "We quarantined ourselves and called LASD Hazmat in case it was a harmful substance."

Hazmat and the FBI responded within 15 minutes. A quick analysis showed it was an inert numbing agent, likely benzocaine powder, and posed no threat to the officers. Hazmat took the substance for closer examination. The investigation is currently in the LAPD's jurisdiction, but no motive or suspect has been declared so far.

The incident involving the suspicious package was reported as a "suspected terrorist act," which was one of six major events to happen on campus in February, a higher than average crime rate for Valley.

"Four major reports per month is the average," Deputy Anthony Coleman said. "Five or more major events in a month is abnormal."

The five other reports consisted of two burglaries, two acts of vandalism and one weapons violation charge.

One burglary report involved the theft of an emergency evacuation chair from the third floor of the Allied Health and Sciences building. According to the Sheriff's Department's description from security footage, the Hispanic or white male suspect was around 30 years old and likely homeless, wearing a blue cap and dirty clothes. An evacuation chair is designed to transport a person with disabled mobility down stairs in case of an emergency. The other burglary involved a break-in at the media arts storage room. While nothing was stolen, the unknown suspect was believed to have lived in the space for some time.

"None of our buildings are really targeted for burglary," said Coleman. "It's just opportunity based - someone leaves a door open."

The two incidents of vandalism involved graffiti being spray painted on the walls of the parking structure next to Ethel avenue. The suspects, two Grant High School students, were arrested and charged with misdemeanors on March 13.

The one report of a weapons violation charge is connected to an incident involving two male suspects who brandished a concealed weapon.

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Umoja kicks off WHM with Disney executive

The president of Disney branded television shared her path to success with Umoja Black scholars.

KENYA HARRIS
STAFF WRITER

The Umoja Black Scholars program organized a special women's history month event on campus Tuesday featuring President of Disney Branded Television, Ayo Davis, who galvanized Valley College students and staff to achieve their personal and career goals.

Davis' work includes the award winning show "How To Get Away With Murder" on ABC, as well as overseeing streaming platforms Disney XD and Disney + Television. She did not start out at the top, and had a lot of advice to impart on her audience, especially in regards to how she got to where she is — a woman of color in an executive position at a major company.

"Every stepping stone leads you to your next place," said Davis. "I'm doing it for myself. Whatever I learn is for me. The output is for someone else."

Davis spoke of her humble beginnings as an undergraduate at Fullerton Junior College, when she was not yet sure of which track she wanted for her future. Davis credits her success to some entry level posi-

tions early in her career when she worked as an intern for the Quincy Jones Productions, and New Line Cinema. Interning without pay, traveling to two different workplaces, Davis' early career is an embodiment of hard work and dedication. Her entry level internships taught her how to manage multiple projects at one time, giving her the education and training she would later need to succeed as an executive.

Another piece of advice she offered was to not underestimate the importance of building relationships and connections with whoever you can interact with. It was through her interning work and the relationships she had built that she finally landed a paying position. Davis spoke about how the mindset needed for success, advising students to always keep learning and give themselves grace or patience as they begin or continue their career journey.

"Just take the time for yourself as you go through," said Davis. "It's important to manage expectations and follow up. You're in charge of your own destiny. Make sure you're soaking in everything. Don't focus on the role — learn about the company."



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOEL TRUDGEON

EXEC- Ayo Davis, President of Disney Branded Television, spoke to Monarchs as part of Umoja's Women's History Month celebration.

Ayo fielded questions from the attending staff and students. Many students took the opportunity to pick the executive's brain, hoping to glean knowledge about how to break into the entertainment industry.

According to the 2022 Women in the Workplace

study from Lean In, "Women are still dramatically underrepresented in leadership.... only 1 in 20 is a woman of color."

Ayo also gave her best tips and practices to succeed in life;

While Davis' advice served as an invaluable resource for students hoping to break into the

entertainment industry, it was also applicable to everyday life.

"It is so great to work on listening," said the president of Disney Branded Television. "You pick up on silent cues, understand your audience. Silence sometimes is power. Listen, process, read the room."

The Valley students and staff seemed very receptive to Davis' messaging.

"It was phenomenal of her to come," said student Arianna C Gardner. "I learned perseverance and to not keep all your eggs in one basket," added Akira Joy Evans, also a Valley student.

Sprinkle encourages students beyond the universe

The Valley astronomy professor fosters a safe learning environment for learners of all backgrounds.



AVA ROSATE | VALLEY STAR

PLANETARIUM - Luna Sprinkle's curiosity for astronomy began when she was seven years old.

AVA ROSATE
STAFF WRITER

From the classroom to the cosmos, Luna Sprinkle, a first year Astronomy professor

at Valley is making the planetarium a comfortable place to explore the stars through inclusivity and encouragement.

Since the age of seven, Luna Sprinkle has been looking

to the night sky for answers regarding the mysteries of the universe and its origin. The curiosity followed her through her from her formative years, to her college degree work and

well through her professional field - but the 27-year-old astronomy professor's academic journey was not an easy one.

"The best picture I can

"Things don't go perfectly. I had a goal and it didn't work out, but I am still doing what I love."

- Luna Sprinkle, Valley College astronomy professor

paint of my academic career was not very pretty," the astronomy professor admits. "I was like a beat down pickup truck with its two back wheels missing and its back end dragging on the road with sparks flying as I crossed the finish line."

While pursuing her degree in physics at UCLA, Sprinkle decided to pick up a second major -- meteorology. The dou-

ble major was accepted into her meteorology graduate program during her last semester, but she failed a single class imperative to her graduation, forcing her to drop the entire second major.

"Time had to pass and I had to realize I was still pursuing what I loved," said Sprinkle. "It taught me that things don't go perfectly. I had a goal and it didn't work out, but I am still doing what I love."

By leveraging her own academic journey, the professor creates a learning environment that empowers students to share their thoughts and questions -- a setting that was not conducive to her own. As a neurodivergent individual, the 27-year-old professor understands the difficulty students face when trying to communicate their thoughts in the STEM field.

"Students in STEM classrooms are reluctant to communicate with their teacher or even raise their hand during lectures," Sprinkle said regarding the classroom environment. "I have seen teachers reply in a non conducive way

to students or peers who judge others for asking questions, that is the type of approach that drives people away."

Although Sprinkle is only in the first several months of her teaching career, she possesses a deep understanding of the elements needed to motivate and guide students towards their academic goals.

"I want to be someone who is my unapologetic self to students," said Sprinkle. "I want to make sure that students can feel like they exist in the classroom."

The first year professor urges their students to take the adequate time to slow down and take mental health breaks when feeling burnt out.

"If your mental health isn't in check, it makes everything else more difficult," Sprinkle said about student burn out. "Slow down rather than trying to speed up to make up for mistakes, and take honest breaks -- not the guilty breaks where you're spending your energy thinking about everything you ought to be doing. You deserve rest, you don't need to justify or earn it."

Valley hosts Monarch Market grand opening

Students enjoyed warm meals and unperishables during the first of many food distributions this semester.

JASMINE ALEJANDRE
STAFF WRITER

Students at Valley College were provided warm meals, groceries and resources on March 8 during the grand opening of the Monarch Market pop-up.

Fresh fruit, bread, canned food and many more options were distributed to students. Monarchs also had the option between burritos and subway sandwiches. There were a total of 100 subway sandwiches and 200 burritos distributed, enough meals for about 300 students. The warm meals and groceries were provided by the Valley Foundation and by Student LunchBox, a non-profit organization committed to helping college students.

"This is helping me because in my household we're depending on just my dad's income," said Lily Fuentes, second year psychology major. "I got some

stuff for everyone and it's really going to help out because groceries are so expensive."

The market pop-up is brought to students by Valley's Basic Needs Center. Juan Castellanos is at the helm of the center, serving as both counselor and coordinator. Basic needs assistance is something close to his heart, having been homeless himself at the age of 22 after his father passed away. Castellanos lived in his car for some time and couch surfed many nights. He says it is important to him to help students because during this difficult time his college did not have the resources to help him.

"The ultimate goal is to prevent a basic need for insecurity, rather than have to intervene," said Castellanos. "It's important to bring awareness and resources. Our work is heavily rooted in equity."

Community colleges throughout the state began to cre-

ate resource centers that address food and housing insecurity among the student population last year, as mandated by AB-132.

The bill states that "the basic needs center is intended to be a one-stop, single location and point of contact for students to more easily access and gain awareness of basic needs services and resources."

Homelessness is a problem many students face. A recent study conducted by UCLA found that one in five California community college students are homeless. The housing crisis makes it harder for students to focus on their education.

"A lot of students are facing challenges, especially after the pandemic," said Lucia Martinez, an intern for the Basic Needs Center. "It's important to help them so they can do good academically."



ELLI BAYATI | VALLEY STAR

FOOD- Students line up to get groceries at the grand opening of the Monarch Market last Wednesday.

TikTok screen time restrictions make sense

Users under 18 will benefit greatly from the app's new time limit suggestion.

KEVIN KHACHATRYAN
STAFF WRITER

TikTok has gone too far, with users scrolling on the app for hours. Children under 18 will be limited to an hour of use each day, but only for as long as it takes them to realize they can change the setting manually.

As great as TikTok can be for younger children and video creators who get paid for making videos, the scrolling and unsuitable videos for underage users can impact their personal lives. Teenagers spend too much of their daily lives on TikTok, as the average time spent grew to 91 minutes a day — which is up from 82 minutes in 2022. Social media apps like TikTok and Instagram have created mental health problems for students who use the app as an escape from daily stressors. The time restriction should be permanent and the settings should not allow a change in the limitation.

"I think this new restriction will help younger children's mental health," said Valley College cinematography major Alex Cubias.

When the 60-minute limit is reached, teens will be required to enter a passcode to continue

watching videos on the social media app. Teenagers will still have the ability to opt out of the feature if they want, but TikTok will still prompt a limit if users spend more than 100 minutes on the app in one day.

As of February, 11 percent of TikTok users spent 5-10 hours every week on the app, and 60 percent of the users are between the ages of 16-24.

California's Attorney Rob Bonta demanded for TikTok to comply with state investigations into its harm to children's mental health. Bonta was concerned that the constant scrolling was devastating younger children's mental health and even launched an investigation looking into the harm the app has on young users.

Bonta states that heavy use of social media is strongly associated with self-harm, depression and low self-esteem in teens.

In order for students to stay healthy, students can put their energy in other activities that are less likely to hurt their feelings. Physical activities or hanging out with friends can reduce stress for time spent studying and can reduce use of screen time.

It can be difficult to get away from the toxic trends on social media that brainwash children, but it is not impossible to wean off of TikTok.



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One Way or Another:

One question, two opposing viewpoints

Artificial intelligence cheats students into success

KEVIN KHACHATRYAN
STAFF WRITER

More than a quarter of K-12 teachers have caught their students cheating using ChatGPT, according to a nationwide survey. This artificial intelligence website can generate a five-paragraph essay good enough to create an A-level paper.

Students can now rely on a machine to generate answers for their homework, raising serious concerns for the future of cheating on school work. Many people have been concerned with the rise of AI over the past few years because of its ability to do the work of humans.

According to Grade Crest, a 10-page paper or a 3,000 word essay takes 5-10 hours on average, but this website can answer any prompt given in less than 10-20 seconds.

"From a photography standpoint, you can create fake photos," said photography 010 professor Kelly Battle. "I disagree with this, because it's taking away jobs from real artists and photographers. This won't help you understand how to set and control a camera."

ChatGPT does not require that students truly understand the prompt or questions because the AI lacks an educational component. It simply generates words without any explanation. This means that its responses are likely shallow and lacking in depth and insight.

Students' reliance on bots to generate answers for them could lead to a loss of genuine human connection. It's better to reach out and connect with others through conversation because it helps one develop better communication skills while facilitating a deeper understanding of the coursework. Outsourcing that to a machine could have a detrimental side effect on our society.

This bot machine is frightening for people outside of academic settings as well. Many newsrooms have begun to speculate that the speed-writing, new-fangled AI generator might start replacing journalists.

While ChatGPT has the potential to put people out of work, it is not something new because the answers that the bot generates can be found on Wikipedia and other websites that provide the same answers.

The AI makes it impossible for teachers to assign online exams for students to do at home because cheating may cause students to excel on their assessments.

This is a bigger problem for students that take courses such as math, English or other subjects that have the ability for a bot to answer questions.

"From an academic viewpoint, I think it would be important for professors to get training on this kind of software to understand what students are using it for," said Battle. "What are we missing from the classroom to evolve our teaching for a modern world?"

ChatGpt usage bolts through schools and workplaces sparking concern

ANDRES SANCHEZ
STAFF WRITER

OpenAI software ChatGPT is facing scrutiny for its plagiarism capabilities instead of praise for how it will alleviate the workload of future students and workers.

San Francisco based company, OpenAI launched ChatGPT last November. The program is an artificial intelligence algorithm that interacts with its users in conversation, answers questions, writes prompts, solves problems and even rejects inappropriate requests. Although ChatGPT has received negative feedback from scholars, and automation of jobs has always been looked down upon, people have adjusted to automation before.

ChatGPT is being scrutinized by schools nationwide, prompting bans and companies like Turn It In to establish their own algorithm detection system to sniff out foul play. Students should strive to utilize ChatGPT in assisting them to gather information or construct outlines. Plagiarism is a problem, but there are many programs that can detect unedited outputs like AI Text Classifier, Originality.ai and GPTZero.

Valley College's Office of Academic Affairs and Writing Office should consider having an open discourse among students and staff to acknowledge and educate students on how this program is used, along with teaching ways to prevent plagiarism. A Boston University article written by Joel

Brown described how professor Wesley Wildman engaged his students into creating blueprints, rules and uses of the program. The students credited the program as a source when it was used. Banning ChatGPT will not work because students will always find a creative way to cheat, like using multiple chatbots or editing enough of the AI's outputs.

"What the policy couldn't do is simply ban ChatGPT and products like it, even if that were feasible," said Wildman. "From the student point of view, this is their future. They need to figure out how to master these tools and integrate it into our toolkit."

Students and professors adapting to ChatGpt are using it as the foundation for projects or assignments, the skeleton of their work in which students will connect muscles, organs, nerves using their own ideas. Using AI to create specific study plans for students or class will create an easier transition in teaching. Customizing teaching plans that involve students who are visual learners, cooperative, differentiated, or have special needs will maximize how a teacher can nurture thriving learning environments. In a CE Noticias Financieras article, teachers were interviewed on how they apply ChatGPT into students' curriculum to practice their critical thinking skills.

"Even ChatGPT's flaws — such as the fact that its answers to factual questions are often incorrect - can become material for critical thinking exercises," states the study. "Several teachers told

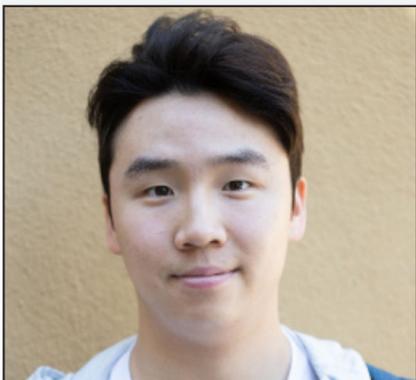
me that they had asked students to try to get ChatGPT wrong or to evaluate their answers in the same way a teacher would evaluate a student's answers."

AI will only become more integrated into society as technology advances in the future, recognizing and utilizing this will prevent us from becoming obsolete learners and workers.

ChatGPT is a revolutionary technology like the internet, cars and medicine — all which require regulation and laws which hold the companies like OpenAI liable and the student governments to create policies around it.

VALLEY VIEW | HOW CAN CHATGPT BE USED WHILE MAINTAINING ACADEMIC INTEGRITY?

TEXT BY MILAN ALEX RAFAELOV
PHOTOS BY JEREMY RUIZ



"If a professor can check if it's plagiarized that would be good. I think it's great but I don't want people to rely on ChatGPT too much. I actually have some of my friends who use ChatGBT when they do not want to do work for an assignment."

-YEONWON JEONG, PSYCHOLOGY MAJOR



"ChatGBT just gives us the resources. I don't think you can consider it cheating when it just gives a shorter format to look at a question. When it comes to plagiarism I don't know, maybe you can ask ChatGBT and see if it has similar questions."

-KRINAL PRAJAPATI, BIOLOGY MAJOR



"Maybe there needs to be more in-class writing assignments to prevent ChatGBT abuse. I don't use it myself but I don't think you can use it with academic integrity."

-ROWAN WINSTON, HISTORY MAJOR



"Using Chat GBT sounds like cheating. But it depends on how you use the technology. At the end of the day, it's gonna be your work and effort so I think it'll be better for students to try and put more effort into their work themselves."

-DAVID RAMIREZ, ANESTHESIOLOGY MAJOR



SHOOT- Monarch sophomore guard Leena Vo shoots a free throw as teammate Jacqueline Privado stands in the background. The two were selected as first-team all-conference players.

XAVIER DUBON | VALLEY STAR

Monarchs To Watch



NICHOLAS OROZCO
SPORTS EDITOR

The Valley College baseball team swept its conference-opening series last week against West LA College, starting conference play with a 3-0 record. Pitcher Danny Veloz, shortstop Tino Valdez and center fielder Royce Clayton Jr. played key roles over the weekend.

Veloz, a sophomore who typically came out of the bullpen, is now a starter for the Monarchs. Last season, he pitched 60 innings and posted a 2.70 ERA. The right-hander allowed 22 runs on 46 hits while striking out 56.

In 36 innings this season, he has nearly matched his statistics from last year. He has posted a 2.75 ERA, allowed 17 runs on 35 hits and has collected 42 strikeouts.

In his most dominant outing against Palomar, who are the current defending conference champions, Veloz pitched six innings, striking out nine batters while only giving up five hits. In his most recent outing against West LA, the starting pitcher struck out 10 batters in four innings and allowed one run. Veloz will likely take the hill every other game if he remains healthy and the coaches are looking for him to dominate the game.

Freshman Tino Valdez joined the Valley team in the fall after graduating from Loyola High School. He has earned the starting shortstop position, stepping into the shoes of former shortstop Maddox Latta. In his senior year at Loyola, Valdez batted .341 and collected 23 RBIs on 29 hits. Valdez was a difficult out for opposing pitchers, striking out only nine times in 85 at-bats.

Through eighteen games for the Monarchs, Valdez is hitting .250 with nine RBIs and three stolen bases. Most notably, Valdez went 3-5 against West LA during a game on March 9. While he still might be adjusting to college pitching, he can likely be a force for Valley.

Another freshman who has been dominant at the plate has been Royce Clayton Jr. Hailing from Oaks Christian High School, he batted .248 in his senior year, recording 14 RBIs in 27 hits. In more than 109 at-bats, he struck out 38 times. He also stole eight bases on eight attempts.

This season for the Monarchs, Clayton Jr. is lighting up the stat sheet, batting .309 with 12 RBIs. He also has a home run and seven stolen bases. From March 2 to March 11, Valley played four games, and Clayton Jr. collected at least two hits in each game. Sitting at the top of the order, Clayton Jr. could be a force for Valley.

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Student athlete finds success on and off court

Late starter Leena Vo weighs her options to play basketball at the university level.

NICHOLAS OROZCO
SPORTS WRITER

By most standards, Leena Vo started playing basketball late in life. Her first time playing organized basketball was in the eighth grade, but the late starter became a quick bloomer as the Valley College guard was recently named first-team All-Western State Conference.

Vo along with sophomore guards Jordyn Jiron and Jacqueline Privado spearheaded the Lady Monarchs attack this year. They would lead the team to a 21-9 record with a second-round playoff appear-

ance, which was their first playoff appearance since 2018.

In Vo's first year at Granada Hills Charter, she made the junior varsity team. One year later, she was on Varsity and helped her team win a CIF championship. Vo's third year playing the sport.

"It was a really big thing for me," Vo said. "It was a goal to win the next year and the next year."

Vo had to convince her parents to let her play college basketball. They were more focused on academics. However, once they gave in, they became her biggest fans, showing up and cheering at most of her games.

The 20 year old found out of the program at Valley through former assistant

coach Natalie Gutierrez, who would scout Vo during her high school games. Gutierrez

"She is a leader and role model to her peer. Leena Vo is a great example of what we want for our program."

- Head Coach
Monica Hang

convinced Vo and her friend Privado to join the program. "The coaches, the envi-

ronment and everyone here were really welcoming," Vo said. "They really care about making you better."

Vo averaged 8.9 points per game and 4.7 rebounds per game in her freshman campaign. In her second year, she scored 9.1 points per game and collected 5.1 rebounds a game. Even though Vo's averages were not dramatically different between her freshman and sophomore years, she gained valuable experience.

"I've grown more confident in myself because I feel [Community College basketball] is really underrated," said the 20-year-old who also earned All-State academic honors from the California Community College

Athletic Association. "Just the fact that I can compete at this level proves to me that I can do it."

Head Coach Monica Hang said that her star guard is a great example of what she wants for the women's basketball program. Hang added that the Lady Monarchs take pride in the "student-athlete," something that Vo models. Vo will graduate with an AAT degree in kinesiology and be ready to transfer in the fall.

"What's amazing about her accomplishing these awards, she did it while working a part-time job," Hang said. "She is a leader and role model to her peers. Leena Vo is a great example of what we want for our women's basketball program."

Nine get called by Monarch Hall of Fame

The Class of 2023 Monarch Hall of Fame inductees to be celebrated on July 24.

ANDRES SANCHEZ
STAFF WRITER

New inductees to the Valley College Hall of Fame were announced last week and the group is made up of former players, coaches and a founding member of the Hall of Fame.

The incoming class includes the 2013-14 women's basketball team, Marcus Harvey, Ava Avanesian, Mary Ann Breckell, Bruno Cicotti, Josh Goossen-Brown, Stew Kops, Joe Mauldin and Raul Castillo, one of the founding members of the Hall of Fame.

Castillo, the former executive director of the Valley College Foundation, passed away in May at 54 years old. He was dedicated to student success at the college and carried an interest in athletics.

"[Raul] took me to lunch and came out of lunch as a chairperson of the Hall of Fame Committee," said Paul Sabolic.

Castillo raised \$8 million in endowments through the foundation, helping to fund many school programs including the athletic endowment campaign, which underwrites programs such as the Athletic Hall of Fame and Green and Gold Club. Under the recommendation of former Athletic Director Chuck Ferrero, Castillo convinced professor

Sabolic to run the new project as chairperson of Valley's Athletics Hall of Fame Committee.

The Hall of Fame committee announced this year's inductees on March 10 after years of delays due to COVID-19. The committee will host an in-person event honoring the new members on June 24 in Monarch Hall at 5 p.m.

"One of my cousins, he's actually in the hall of fame too as a football player. Being there with him means a lot to me."

- Josh Goossen-Brown,
pitching coach

Sabolic was inducted into the hall in 2010 in recognition of his Monarch football career. He was named All-Metropolitan offensive linemen and junior college All-American in 1967. "I wasn't an Olympian. I wasn't a NFL player, nor major league baseball player. I was just another collegueguy," said Sabolic.

Pitching coach for the Monarch baseball team, Josh Goossen-Brown, will also be inducted into the hall for his accomplishments at Valley. During the 2010 season,



JEREMY RUIZ | VALLEY STAR

COACH- Josh Goossen-Brown is a pitching coach for the Monarchs baseball team. Goossen-Brown was inducted into the Monarch Hall of Fame for his achievements as a pitcher for the baseball team in 2010.

Goossen-Brown was named WSC Southern Division Player of the Year, WSC Golden Glove winner and WSC 2010 All-Conference first-team selection.

"It's a huge honor for me," said Goossen-Brown, "One of my cousins, he's actually in the hall of fame too as

a football player. Being there with him means a lot to me."

The 2013-14 Lady Monarchs posted a 12-0 record on their way to a Western State Conference title. The entire roster will be inducted this summer, including AJae Foster, Erika Rivera, Kalia Turner, Jecenia

Trinidad, Chelsea Rhamdeow, Ajai Ford, Melody Gauthier, Amanda Hubbell, Bobbie Morgutia, Myangel Johnson, Julissa Aguirre, Junious-Reliford Lunden, Bryttne Nakamura and Diana Herrera.

- With Contributions from Nicholas Orozco.