



**VALLEY LIFE: COLLEGE FEST**  
LEO THE LION WELCOMED PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS TO THE ON CAMPUS EVENT.



**SPORTS: FIRST WIN**  
MONARCH FOOTBALL ENDED ITS TWO GAME LOSING STREAK ON SATURDAY.

# Garcetti delivers dollars

A “Go Metro back to school” event was held at the roundabout on Valley’s campus.

CASSANDRA NAVA  
MANAGING EDITOR

Mayor Eric Garcetti spoke on campus yesterday to celebrate the LACCD’s continued partnership with Metro, as the GoPass program extends until 2023.

Valley College’s Fulton entrance was transformed into a stage for student speakers, the Metro CEO, the mayor and members of the LACCD board as they celebrated the continued funding of Metro’s GoPass program. Parked at the roundabout was a zero emission accordion Metro bus, acting as a backdrop for the speakers.

“We branded this as the GoPass, but this is really the freedom pass,” said Stephanie Wiggins, the Metro CEO. “When you think about what it means: free from reducing congestion, free from the negative impacts of climate change. But more importantly, by partnering with LACCD, it is freedom from poverty.”

The district recently acquired a \$1 million grant through Congressional Directed Funding from the office of Senator Diane Feinstein, allowing all community colleges in Los Angeles County to take advantage of the program. Last December, Metro partnered with the district to offer their over 200,000 students fareless rides on Metro buses and trains. About one fourth of the district students utilize public transportation for college. The program was scheduled to run for a full year, ending on Dec. 31. The initiative will now run until the end of the 2023 academic year.

District board member Andra Hoffman shared statistics from a recent district study, sharing that over half of the LACCD students live at or below the poverty line. With the continuation of the Metro



**METRO-** (L-R) Eric Garcetti, Andra Hoffman and Barry Gribbons talk before the Go Metro Back to School speech where the U.S. Department of Education presented a 1 million dollar check to the LACCD on Valley College’s campus.

ro program, students will have one less expense to worry about.

“For these students, a fareless public transit is life-changing and makes the difference between choosing to spend money on food or transportation to get to school,” said district board member Andra Hoffman. “It meant the difference between dropping out — due to their inability to make

it to class — or getting a degree and actually making it on time.”

For regular Metro users, a TAP card is required to use when entering buses or trains. The card, which can be purchased for a one time fee of \$3.50, must be loaded with payment so users can physically tap the card upon entrance of the vehicle. By obtaining a GoPass, that student can

save about \$280 per semester.

Metro also offers the GoPass program to K-12 LAUSD students, and earlier this month the transportation company partnered with Glendale Community College.

The Welcome and Outreach centers set up a booth for students to obtain free TAP cards. By 11:30 a.m., the center handed out around 50 cards to students.

Monarchs can receive a GoPass TAP card anytime throughout the semester, at the Business Office in the Student Union.

“Buses shouldn’t be a barrier, they should be a bridge,” said Garcetti. “And today America’s largest county says that we will have the largest free transit pass in America and that is worth celebrating.”

GRIFFIN O’ROURKE | VALLEY STAR

## Bond up for vote

CASSANDRA NAVA  
MANAGING EDITOR

The LACCD will ask taxpayers for \$5.3 billion in the November election, in the largest bond measure to date.

In an effort to keep up with a changing digital landscape, the district is opting to modernize all nine campuses by infusing technology in classrooms and buildings while updating infrastructure on and around campuses. Athletic fields and facilities will be renovated as well, while maintaining sustainability efforts throughout the process. At a district Board of Trustees meeting on July 6, Chancellor Francisco Rodriguez stated that taxpayers have supported the LACCD’s measures in the past, providing a total of \$9 billion since 2001.

“By approving this, and by the voters approving this, it will provide fiscal stability to facilities areas for a very long period of time with less reliance on state funding,” said Rodriguez. “It also provides predictability in planning, predictability in stabilization for the future of LACCD.”

If passed, the measure will divide the \$5.3 billion sum between the nine colleges in the district. Valley College would receive \$496.01 million; the third largest amount behind Trade-Tech College and East LA College, respectively.

“Most importantly [the bond] discusses, and puts into very important detail, the infrastructure needs that the district will have for the next 15 to 20 years,” said Rodriguez.

While the district asks for the largest amount of money it has ever asked taxpayers, enrollment declines throughout the nine campuses. All district colleges have followed a downward trend of enrollment, with Valley’s headcount down 1,742 students from the 2020-21 school year to the 2021-22 year.

Campuses throughout the district may soon be able to financially accommodate Hybrid-Flexible courses. HyFlex courses allow instructors to record themselves teaching, while students can decide whether to attend online, in person or view the lesson online at a later time. Late last year, Valley installed HyFlex technology in a classroom and held demonstrations for staff.

Installing new technology in Valley classrooms will require a major upheaval of data lines throughout the campus.

“Many of the [wiring] components are sorely out of date,” said college President Barry Gribbons. “Obviously we’re doing a lot more video transmission with so many classes online. That creates much more complexities and much more demand on the network infrastructure.”

On Valley’s campus, buildings built before the 1970s will see the biggest changes, as those will need the most renovation. The Music, Art, South Gym, Campus Center, Planetarium and Motion Picture Studio buildings were erected between 1961 to the mid ‘70s, and have recently been assessed. Soon, these structures could meet the most up-to-date fire safety, structural and accessibility needs.

If passed, the bond may help the district reach its 2020 goals of achieving renewable carbon-free electricity consumption by 2030 and carbon-free energy consumption for all other energy uses by 2040.

# Valley stays on growth trajectory

With enrollments on the rise, the college continues to reinvest in outreach.

ISAAC DEKTOR  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

With an eight percent increase in enrollments and a \$10 million balance on the books, Valley College is poised to climb above the “hold harmless” funding floor if current trends continue.

At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic there was a major shortage of students statewide, leading the state to fund colleges based on older and higher enrollment numbers. The state provided protections, called “hold harmless,” were extended until 2025. Colleges are guaranteed a certain amount of funding and can go above that base if enrollment and other factors increase according to budget committee chair Howard Levine. Valley’s funding is determined by three factors: the number of full-time students, financial aid disbursements and degrees awarded.

“Dual enrollment is growing at a faster rate than other types of enrollments and is also funded at a higher rate,” said Gribbons. “So it’s to our benefit that the area that’s funded at the highest rate is growing.”

As full-time equivalent students make up 70 percent of the funding formula, the recent enrollment boom is a positive sign for the college. Full-time equivalent students are further divided into subcategories that are funded at different rates, including

Non-credit career development college preparation courses also saw an enrollment spike at the start of this semester, and these types of students are

funded at a higher rate. Many of these courses saw enrollments decline due to the pandemic, causing sections to be canceled.

Eight years ago, Valley was

in debt at roughly \$5 million to the district. But after reigning in deficit spending and balancing the budget for three consecutive years, the district for-

gave the debt. The Monarchs have been stacking surpluses and growing the year-end balance ever since. The treasure chest now holds \$10.7 million.



**FESTIVAL-** People tour the various tables of colleges that have set up for College Fest 2022 at Valley College. Valley set up a row its own booths at the entrance of the event, giving them the most exposure to prospective students.

**“If the state ended up cutting revenues, we would have 10.7 million dollars to be able to cover anything.”**

- Valley President  
Barry Gribbons

While the funds offer a guardrail in case of a rainy day — Valley is currently projecting a \$4 million deficit this year, though spending could still avoid entering the red — the administration has been proactive in investing a portion of its funds into outreach. As enrollments are up at rates higher than the district average, the investment appears to have materialized into more students, whether it be online or in-person.

“If the state ended up cutting revenues, or something else happened that impacted our revenues, we would have 10.7 million dollars to be able to cover anything,” said Gribbons. “We can also use that 10.7 million strategically to grow our enrollments and to help eliminate disproportionate impact.”

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

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VALLEY STAR | GRIFFIN O’ROURKE

# Melancholia offers a peek into the mind of a veteran

The Latino Theater Company's production sheds light on the adversities of war through the lens of a veteran suffering from PTSD.

AVA ROSATE  
STAFF WRITER

Performed by Los Angeles City College theater students and written by the Latino Theater Company, "Melancholia" focuses on the devastating psychological impact of war from the standpoint of Mario, a combat fatigued military veteran from East Los Angeles.

The red and white outdoor tent in the Student Union Plaza where the production is held could easily be mistaken for a circus show, with string lights hanging from the ceiling and swing sets on either side of the stage. The intimate tent was transformed into the corrupted mind of the veteran as soon as the show began. Each manic episode, song and flashback were enhanced with dramatic strobe lights, illuminating the deterioration of Mario's mental health.

"You'll see the scenery looks like a circus and it's in the thrust — it's supposed to be very stylized," said Johnny Garofalo, the production designer for the show. "And the point

of that design is it's exactly contrary to what the actual story is, because the story is real. It's a vet, and it's about depression and how vets are treated."

The play begins with a pair of clowns, Tar (Arnol Zepeda) and Skittles (Valerie Vega) clad in baroque makeup bickering over a Hamlet quote. The fools act as storytellers for the play, guiding the audience through key points in Mario's life, from the point of his decision to join the military to some time after his homecoming. The jesters kept the play on a light note and were a refreshing element to the devastating theme.

The role of Mario is shared by three actors: Jared Walters, Jorge Berrios and Isaiah Noriega. The constant switching of the characters could be unclear and confusing for first time viewers but adds depth to Mario.

We first learn of the soldier's PTSD during his homecoming, which happened to fall on New Year's Eve. During the firework celebration at midnight, Mario was sent into a state of panic, imagining the fireworks as fly-



AVA ROSATE | VALLEY STAR  
GRIEF- Veiled characters mourn the loss of Rueben, Mario's childhood bestfriend who lost his life in combat. The memory of Reuben sends Mario into a manic episode each time he is reminded.

ing bullets. The audience later finds out the manic episode was a figment of his imagination, setting the precedent for surrealist interruptions to the narrative.

The play lightly touched on corruption in war such as Abu Ghraib, human violation and war-crimes conducted by the CIA and American Army

in 2003 in Iraq, where Iraqis were physically tortured, sexually violated and raped.

The actors' vocal talents were showcased during three musical

numbers. The bone-chilling ballad, "La Llorona", was beautifully sung between La Muerte (Norene Flowers), piano accompanist Melanie Hatzembuhler and a weeping woman played by Rebecca Jauregui.

Mario's mental health declines throughout the production — his alcohol consumption and violent lash outbursts become normalized. The flashbacks he endures are a constant reminder of the horror he lived through during his time in the Marines.

Mario's friends, family and girlfriend bore the brunt of his internal fight. They knew the person he was before he was deployed, happy, curious and free-spirited. After his return, he is noticeably struggling to reconnect to the world he once knew.

"This is shoving empathy in your face," said Garofalo. "If you can watch the show and not feel empathy, well you weren't watching the show."

# Williams, Wagner and Holst play big at first concert

Christain Nova hosts the first of 13 concerts, with music composed by John Williams, Richard Wagner and Gustav Holst.

NATALIE METCALF  
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

A saxophone, piano, bass and vibraphone played a game of cat and mouse in recital hall M106, as Valley College students appreciatively listened to orchestration from John Williams, Richard Wagner and Gustav Holst.

The quartet kicked off the free Wednesday concert series with music from "Escapades" and "Catch Me if You Can" (2002) — including "Closing In," "Reflections" and "Joy Ride" — all composed by John Williams. Before the Williams tribute, the musicians played "Mars" by Gustav Holst, which inspired many of Williams's works. Nick Casillas blew the saxophone, Mitsuko Morikawa conducted while playing piano, Jamie Strowhiro played percussion on drums and vibraphone and Sezin Ahmet Turkmenoglu strummed the bass.



JEREMY RUIZ | VALLEY STAR  
STORYTELLING- (L-R) Mitsuko Morikawa, Sezin Ahmet Turkmenoglu, Jamie Strowhiro and Nicholas Casillas perform three musical arrangements from John Williams, Gustav Holst and Richard Wagner.

"It's good to reunite with friends and play music again," said Casillas, having performed with the other members of the quartet individually, but never all together.

"It's my idea of a good time." Each piece was originally written for orchestras, but the musicians transcribed the pieces to fit the quartet. Casillas compared the quartet

to a jazz band, as each musician was feeding off each other during the performance.

"I do a lot of listening because these pieces are not originally written for this instru-

ment [piano]," said Morikawa after the performance. "I listen to a lot of orchestra, it helps me learn the chord progression."

After the concert, a Q&A led by Music Professor Christian Nova took place between the audience members and performers. Nova organized the event in concert with Music 152 — a course he teaches. The free concerts are open to the public and are used for the professor's class. Monarchs can join through a live stream as well as in person.

"In this first movement of 'Escapades' it should sound like a chase or somebody is chasing somebody else," said Nova during the Q&A portion of the recital.

This week's theme was music for storytelling and characterization. Williams's composition and Wagner's operatic prelude expressed the art of storytelling.

"Sometimes there are lyrics available and sometimes not," said Nova. "Music can tell stories with words or without words." Casillas is a University of

California Los Angeles graduate, earning a bachelor's and master's degree in music.

"For me [John Williams] is the sound of my childhood and the sound of many people's childhood," said the saxophonist.

Morikawa is an active soloist, accompanist and chamber musician in the United States and Asia. In her career, the performer has recorded music for the New World Records label. She was featured in radio programs such as WCLV Cleveland and NHK-FM Japan.

The series continued on Sept. 21, with a concert of the same theme — music for storytelling. The third installment of the series, called

"Music for Storytelling: Sung and Danced Drama," will feature faculty members Frank Garvey and Patricia Hannifan.

# Bob Ross virtually visits Valley for painting workshop

The ASU hosted their first student event of the fall semester with a Bob Ross guided painting tutorial.

KEVIN ZUNIGA  
STAFF WRITER

Valley College hosted the Bob Ross Painting Day last week, the first outdoor art event of the fall semester, having forged a volume of over twenty attendees following along to the infamous painter's tutorial.

The Associated Student Union's Commissioner of Fine Arts, Mia Sanchez, organized and hosted the event. With the wide open space in an outdoor area, people gathered around asking how to participate as soon as the Bob Ross tutorial calmly resonated from the speakers. The outdoor venue created some challenges for the students involved, as the monitor featuring Bob Ross' tutorial was facing difficulties from the outdoor elements, such as lighting and wind.

"We have a small board and had to decide what events we want to prioritize," said ASU Treasurer Diego Enriquez. "We decided — I think that Mia decided she wanted to do painting and Bob Ross is a great emotional device. So we decided that'd be perfect. I think everyone loves Bob Ross."



GRIFFIN O'ROURKE | VALLEY STAR  
ROSS- People attend the ASU led Bob Ross Painting Day in the Student Union Plaza at Valley College.

Bob Ross was a painter and television personality that was known for his show "The Joy of Painting" for his soothing and calming voice that aired episodic tutorials on how to paint.

Near the business office, Sanchez signed in students and gave them four different types of paint brushes, paints, canvases and palettes. A screen and pro-

jector presented the Bob Ross tutorial in front of the Monarchs.

Most students that participated in the event joined through curiosity without having any knowledge that the event was happening, while others knew about the event through Valley's webpage.

"I saw an advertisement for this event online," said sec-

ond-year media arts student Chris Hartounias. "There's a canvas page, it's called LAVC's student life activities and they just post stuff for the week. It's nice."

During the middle of the event, a protest by the Armenian Student Association club was seen and heard nearby. They carried signs, spoke to people individually and powerfully



GRIFFIN O'ROURKE | VALLEY STAR  
TUTORIAL - Chris Hartounias paints a canvas blue with dark trees.

exclaimed their frustrations and need for awareness between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

"The purpose of this kind of event is to inform people what's going on," said Armenian Student Association President Gagik Badalyan. "What I find interesting is that a lot of big countries are not responding anyways, and as part of the culture we are responsible to

inform them somehow of what's happening in our homeland."

Despite the challenges that arose out of the event, Sanchez, Enriquez and ASU President Ani Ramazyan consider the event to be a success.

"Yeah we'll do it I think definitely because it's very popular, we'll definitely do it next month," said Sanchez. "I'm really happy people showed up."

# Valley College's art exhibit became a river on fire

"We Became the River on Fire" was introduced to the masses on Sept. 7 and will continue until early December.

KEVIN ZUNIGA  
STAFF WRITER

Valley College welcomes "We Became the River on Fire," its first in-person art exhibit in over two years.

Organized by art professor Jason Kunke, "We Became the River on Fire" is the first art show since the COVID-19 pandemic halted in-person art events. The exhibit will run between Sept. 7 to Dec. 8 at the school's art building. At the opening reception, Kunke displayed professional works by artists Tanya Brodsky, Katy Cowan and Anna Mayer. Students organized their art into a proper theme for the exhibit.

"The idea of the show, the loose theme, was on one hand, climate, climate catastrophe and how we understand ourselves through objects we make using the world around us as art pieces," said Jason Kunke, event organizer.

According to Kunke, the title of the exhibit was inspired by songs called "Rage of Plastics" by the U.S. Girls and "We Became Snakes" by Saccharine

Trust. "We Became Snakes" inspired the formulation of the title in the format of "We Become X" where X would be some sort of object but the song itself didn't match the general concepts Kunke was thinking about.

"Was it the river on fire that made us what we became? Was it the cup we drank from, or what it contained?" sang by Eghan Remy from U.S. Girls.

Kunke hunted through song lyrics and came across the U.S. Girls song "Rage of the Plastic" where it resonated with the ideas he had for the exhibit. The song is about a woman who becomes infertile after years of working at a chemical plant, with the chemicals polluting and contaminating her. The girl was used and contaminated by the world around her and the concept worked into the theme that Kunke is trying to set in his exhibit.

"The exhibit is kind of luxurious because Jason installed all of it and it's great to be part of someone's vision," said Brodsky, Ukrainian-born artist and educator. "We've known each other for a long time so I trusted him to install and dis-



SCULPTURE- "Morning Ware with Eye-Shaped Base" by Anna Mayer and "And Then, The Morning" by Katy Cowen can be seen at Valley College's art gallery called "We Became the River on Fire."

play my piece. It was a nice surprise, but you give up control on the way your art is displayed."

As students, art enthusiasts, and teachers alike walked through the exhibit, some pieces drew more attention than others. "We Are Not Only Everything (Left and Right Feet)" by Mayer

was bronze statues of a pair of feet. Each of the toes represented a different person Mayer knew from her time in Houston Texas. Even though her statues were rather small, since they were displayed in the middle of the room, it caught a lot of people's eyes.

"The feet is my favorite

part of the exhibit, it's just so unsettling," said second-year Valley student Josh Baker.

Tanya Brodsky's "Airflows I" is a blue and white cyanotype on paper that was framed at the left side of the exhibit. It depicted the airflow of an object. Due to the art piece being simple and small



PHOTO COURTESY OF LAVC ART GALLERY  
BRONZE - "We are not only everything (left and right feet)" by anne mayer was showcased at the art exhibit's opening on sept.7.

against a big white wall, it wasn't grabbing a lot of people's attention as they walked through it.

The gallery will be available to view Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. until Dec. 8.

# College Fest 2022 roared energy to life at Valley

Valley hosted its first in-person College Fest event in over two years, with live music, free lunch and shaved ice.

SEAN SCULLY  
STAFF WRITER

As 60 schools from all over the country set up at Valley for College Fest, Monarch Mascot Leo the Lion welcomed students who poured onto the campus excited to take their academic careers to the next level.

Valley College hosted representatives from University of California, California State University, private colleges, and out-of-state schools last Saturday on the North Mall Lawn next to Monarch Square. Workshops on admissions, financial aid, system overviews, foster youth and special programs were also available.

"We really want to connect with as many students as we can and provide them with any helpful information they might need," said Jeanette Maduena, an academic counselor from Pierce College. "It



STUDENTS- Monarchs tour various tents with provided career information, during 2022's College Fest.

was a bummer we didn't have one in-person last year. I've attended several of these in the past and it was great to see this campus come to life again."

Students and attendants had the opportunity to connect with schools from all over the

country and learn valuable information that could advance their academic careers in any field.

"There was a great turnout this year," said Admissions Director Samuel Lang of Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Services,

"We are a section that is out-of-state and sometimes attendance is a lot lighter. But the students that came over to us definitely seemed motivated and driven which was great to see."

Financial aid opportunities and services for students were also present in order to provide resources to further assist anyone in their quest for academic success. The Rainbow Pride Center increased LGBTQ+ visibility on campus and provided students with a safe space to not only be who they are, but to thrive. The Extended Opportunities Program and Services strived to assist eligible alumni who have historically experienced economic and educational challenges.

Friendly staff members walking around College Fest were ready to provide additional answers and insight to attendees. They were also in charge of assisting the

Monarch mascot with meet and greets from 9:30 to 11:30.

While dancing to KVCM Monarch Radio and welcoming guests, Leo the Lion brought a splash of energy to the event. The school mascot heightened the family atmosphere by taking pictures and creating fun filled memories for anyone in attendance.

As the 2022 College Fest came to an end and students talked among themselves, hope and excitement for the future lingered at the center of Valley.

Valley's president Barry Gibbons was also in attendance and personally engaged with students to talk about their academic goals.

"What's really wonderful about this year is the sheer number of colleges and universities at this event," Gibbons enlightened, "We have over 60 that came out today and it was an absolutely wonderful turnout."



GRIFFIN O'ROURKE | VALLEY STAR  
LEO- Leo the lion greets monarchs, while dancing and pumping up the crowd.

# "Moonage Daydream" is the ideal Bowie experiance

The Brett Morgan documentary artistically discusses David Bowie's music and creativity throughout his career.

NATALIE METCALF  
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

"Moonage Daydream" enraptures audiences with David Bowie's sound and vision, through his various albums, portraits, sculptures and acting.

The film transcends normal documentary standards, combining footage from his life and live concerts. "Moonage Daydream" was written, directed and produced by Brett Morgan -- who co-directed "The Kid Stays in the Picture" (2002). Both documentaries are similar in editing and structure. Rather than combining interviews with people who knew Bowie, Morgan focuses on the artist himself with recorded footage from the singer's life and clips from his music videos. Bowie fans will enjoy the film, as familiar songs such as "Life on Mars?" "Ashes to Ashes," "All the Young Dudes" and "Sound and Vision" -- just to name a few -- filled the theater.

The documentary spends most of the two-hour and 17-minute run time on "Hunky Dory" (1971), "The Rise and Fall of Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders from Mars" (1972), "Aladdin Sane" (1973), "Pinups" (1973)



CHANGES - David Bowie was projected to audiences as an entertainer, creative soul and artist in Brett Morgans's documentary "Moonage Daydream."

and "Diamond Dogs" (1974). The tone changes from 70's glam rock to holographic '80s, as an exciting musical number of "Let's Dance" pumps up audiences.

The beginning of the film is dedicated to Bowie's sexuality, as in the early 1970's he

broke social norms by wearing makeup, dresses, jewelry and dying his hair. From the beginning of his career, Bowie was open about his bisexuality. Footage from old interviews makes the artist's story and life personal. Audiences

will be moved, as Bowie lives his life on his own terms.

Remastered footage from the 1960s-90s made the film even more realistic. Fans of the artist will become emotional, seeing packed stadiums singing along with Bowie.

As detailed as the documentary is, the middle of the film is redundant and better editing could have been made to tighten up the film. Audiences see the highs and the lows of Bowie's life, which set up the structure for the documentary in the beginning. Yet towards the end, it becomes repetitive.

But as the film unfolds, audience members learn about the singer through wise words by Bowie himself. During the film, Bowie had many epiphanies about searching the globe for art. For example, Bowie traveled from LA to Germany and later in his life traveled to Japan -- in order to find a new sound and perspective for his music. He never wanted to "repeat the same note twice." The singer believed searching and collecting was the key to great art. When writing his music Bowie would "cut up pieces of paper" and organize the lyrics accordingly.

"Moonage Daydream" goes from zero to 100 in a matter of minutes, as serious discussions of mental illness turn into retro-chrome colored musical numbers. The film is as artistic and avant-garde as Bowie was in his

career. Signs of schizophrenia were shown in Bowie's family, justifying the artistic choice to give the film extreme emotional highs and lows.

The directing stands out the most in the film, as Morgan paints Bowie in a realistic light. He is not the spectacle everyone assumes he is. Bowie is merely an artist, who is a private human being. During his Ziggy Stardust and Aladdin Sane era, he used himself as a canvas making people think of him as a spectacle. Yet later in his life, Bowie showcased his personal side. "Moonage Daydream" will give audiences the message that life is short. Themes of time and other worlds are mentioned throughout the film. In 2016, Bowie died two days before the release of his last album "Blackstar." He was 69.

VALLEY'S STARS



Worth the watch.  
In theaters and  
IMAX.

# State grid not strong enough for electric cars

California's decision to ban gas cars is an ambitious one, but the energy grid is not ready to support it yet.

GRIFFIN O'ROURKE  
STAFF WRITER

In a momentous decision, Gov. Gavin Newsom recently issued an executive order that will ban car manufacturers from producing and selling gas powered vehicles after 2035. The California Air Resources Board adopted the ban, but the move is not big enough.

This decision marks a leap forward in the challenge to reduce carbon emissions, but unless California expands the way it creates clean power, the state may be left in the dark.

The proposal, called Advanced Clean Cars II, calls for 35 percent of cars sold in 2026 to produce zero emissions with the goal rising to 68 percent by 2030. The agenda is an escalation of the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, but critics question if California can meet the demands of millions of electric vehicles on a clean power grid.

Extreme California heat put the power grid to the test recently, which afflicted the entire state. The California Independent System Operator, a corporation that manages the flow of electricity through

state power lines, reported that the state's energy grid was pushed to a record-breaking 52,061 megawatts with imminent power outages.

Blackouts were barely avoided as Newsom pushed an emergency message to mobile devices across the state for residents to reduce power use until the late evening hours, including charging their cars. Owners of electric vehicles shouldn't have to hold off on charging, and the problem will only grow as more people buy these cars. The cutback in power use was not the only thing keeping the lights on as the Associated Press reported the state utilized natural gas generators.

California heat waves are projected to grow in severity and frequency in the coming years, and the grid is already strained as people are turning up their air conditioners.

As of 2021, electric cars make up only two percent of registered vehicles in the state — 534,000 out of the more than 36.2 million cars on the road. When California phases out gas-powered vehicles with electric, the state will fall short of the electrical demands.

Proponents of the ban suggest that most electric car owners will simply charge their cars



CHARGE- A Toyota Prius charges at an EV station in the Los Angeles Valley College parking structure. ALLYSON ROCAS | THE VALLEY STAR

in the evening to avoid peak energy hours. This move was advised by the state in the recent heatwave, but with more electric cars parked in California driveways, peak hours will simply shift to evening hours, proving too tax-

ing on the already buckling grid. Nuclear power, which utilizes steam and turbines, may be the only solution for California as it boasts a high-energy output with clean emissions. Nuclear energy as the main source of

power in addition to renewables would be more than enough to power homes and electric vehicles across the state, which would make for a much cooler ride for Californians.

## One Way or Another:

### State should keep flavored tobacco products

AVA ROSATE  
STAFF WRITER

Banning flavored e-cigarettes means stripping away an adult's rights to bodily autonomy and consumer freedom. Proposition 31 would prohibit tobacco retailers from selling flavored tobacco products including flavored vapes.

California voters are set to weigh in on Proposition 31 in November, a bill set to ban the sale of all flavored tobacco products including flavored vaporizers, flavored vaporizer oils, flavored cigars and flavored cigar wraps.

The proposition is not to ban children from using flavored vapes — which is already illegal. It is putting a ban on regulated and legal sales to adults who already understand the risks associated with smoking.

Smoking in California is hardly an issue — the state comes in second in the country with the lowest rates. Less than 11 percent of adults consume nicotine of any kind statewide, according to a study done by the California Department of Public Health. Those who use nicotine understand the dangers that come with it, but choose to do so because they enjoy it.

Cigarettes, like alcohol, are an affordable form of stress relief. There is no reason to deprive people of their preferred form of relaxation. California is attempting to

obfuscate the reason for the ban, stating they are trying to curb nicotine usage in children, but a financial incentive is being overlooked: California is not making enough money off of the products as they do with traditional cigarettes.

**Flavored vaporizers have been shown to help adults kick their smoking addiction.**

The current tax for cigarettes is 61 percent. The vape tax is 12.5 percent. Instead of outlawing the vape products, California should raise the tax percentage for vape products. Thus increasing revenue and curbing usage in those who can't afford the price hike.

Electronic cigarettes have a great importance to adults who are trying to reduce or stop their smoking habit. Smoking is still responsible for the deaths of almost half a million Americans each year. Traditional cigarettes contain more than 7,000 chemicals, most of which are toxic. Two of the most damaging elements in cigarettes, tar and carbon monoxide, are completely eliminated with the use of a vaporizer.

Flavored vaporizers have been shown to help adults kick their smoking addiction. According to a study done by the

National Library of Medicine, those who used flavored e-cigarettes were more likely to quit smoking than those who used unflavored vapes.

California is placing the blame of underage tobacco use on the wrong party. It is illegal to buy e-cigarettes under the age of 21. If the state actually cared and wanted to put an end to youth smoking, they would shift their focus from the ban of a disposable smoke pen to the prosecution of the adults who are selling to minors.

Outlawing flavored tobacco products will put those who use them in a dangerous position of forcing them to pick up the habit of smoking traditional cigarettes or look to unregulated aftermarkets for their fix.

The FDA knows people who use vapes are extremely unlikely to quit cold turkey if they are banned. California's plan is simple — get rid of low revenue flavored vapes and replace them with high revenue cigarettes.

#### EDITORS NOTE

The views expressed on this page are solely those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Valley Star, its instructors, editors, staff or those of Los Angeles Valley College, its administration, faculty, staff or students.

## One question, two opposing viewpoints

### Ban flavored electronic cigarettes

CASSANDRA NAVA  
MANAGING EDITOR

Due to the rise in electronic cigarette usage amongst young adults, the state government should do everything in its power to ban flavored tobacco products.

The appeal of vapes started off rather innocent — a way for cigarette smokers to kick their stinky habit and switch to the sleek, electronic version of the addictive substance. Hon Lik, the creator of the e-cigarette, invented the alternative to wean himself off of smoking two packs a day. However, the wrong demographic started inhaling. Young adults use electronic cigarettes far more than adults 25 and older, and are generally enticed by the flavors offered.

Common flavors for vapes are fruit, dessert and beverage inspired, according to Breazy, an online e-cigarette retailer. The childlike array of flavors are begging for youth interaction, with names reminiscent of treats that kids just finished spending their allowance money on.

According to the CDC, last year roughly 80 percent of high school and junior high students that vape reported a preference for flavored e-cigarettes.

Juuls, the most popular type of e-cigarette, have long targeted their vapes to young adults. In 2020, the company was hit with a lawsuit by the Massachusetts attorney general for featuring advertisements in websites such

as the Cartoon Network and Teen Vogue from 2015 to 2016.

Earlier this month, Juul Labs was once again in the news for its unethical marketing tactics. The company settled a two year old lawsuit between 33 states who have been investigating Juul. According to the states' findings, the company marketed its products to underage teens through "launch parties, product giveaways and ads and social media posts using youthful models." The e-cigarette company will have to shell out \$438.5 million — which is only about 25 percent of Juul's nationwide sales in 2021.

While the settlement may fool some into thinking that Juul sees the harm in their actions, Juul established itself in the market by preying on teenagers and, as a result, is still benefiting from that immoral strategy. If the trends continue, the overall loss of revenue will be made up in no time, and Juul will emerge unscathed. But for those who picked up the habit, no amount of money can reverse permanent lung damage.

On Nov. 8, Californians will be given the choice to ban flavored tobacco products. Every state resident should vote "Yes" on Proposition 31, as it will ban the sale of these flavored products.

Companies should be held accountable for their actions, as they are single handedly changing the lives of countless individuals. The addictive technology hooked a whole new generation on nicotine, with many victims not even aware of the consequences.

## VALLEY VIEW | HOW SHOULD THE GOVERNMENT REGULATE VAPORIZERS?

TEXT BY KEVIN ZUNIGA

PHOTOS BY JEREMY RUIZ



"Yes, I do think it should be regulated. I honestly don't know much about the effects it has or the deaths that are occurring due to it. Maybe it should be considered a cigarette since it has stuff like that so having a leash on it is fine."

-BYRON ESTRADA, POLITICAL SCIENCE MAJOR



"Nicotine is just one of the drugs that you can hit as much as you want, but I don't recommend doing it. You shouldn't start it if you haven't done it yet."

-JAKE SHIRLEY, PSYCHOLOGY MAJOR



"I know it's not supposed to be dangerous or anything but I see way too young people using them so I don't think it's a good idea."

-EYMMI LUNA, THEATER MAJOR



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## GOT A LETTER TO THE EDITOR?

Letters to the editor can be submitted online at [www.thevalleystarnews.com](http://www.thevalleystarnews.com). Letters must be limited to 300 words and may be edited for content. Full name and contact information must be supplied in order for letters to be printed. Send by Thursday for the following week's issue.

# Monarchs notch their first win against Cougars

Big moments by Jason Wagner and Dennis Wallace led the Monarchs to a win against the Cougars.



TOUCHDOWN- Sophomore Defensive Back Dennis Wallas makes a catch and take it all the way to end-zone and celebrates with his team as they add more to their first victory.



INTERCEPTION- Sophomore Defensive Back Dennis Wallace makes an interception catch and takes it all the way for a touchdown.

GRIFFIN O' ROURKE | VALLEY STAR

KEVIN KHACHATRYAN  
STAFF WRITER

Despite the strong arm of Monarchs Quarterback Dylan Foli, Valley barely scraped by and defeated the lower rated Cougars 45-32.

Valley College football (1-2) ended its two-game losing streak after beating Los Angeles Southwest College (0-3) at home in an offensive battle on Saturday afternoon. With three touchdown passes by freshman quarterback Dylan Foli, Valley was just productive enough in the second half to keep a two-possession lead and

come away with a 45-32 victory.

"Even though we won, I feel like we lost," said Towns. "We should not have allowed that team to score as many points as they did. I feel like we need to come back together to watch the tape and watch the corrections."

Foli connected a 45 yard pass to receiver Jason Wagner on a 3rd and five, resulting in a field goal. After Valley got off to a 3-0 lead, Southwest quarterback threw an interception that was picked off by defensive back Dennis Wallace who ran a 48 yard touchdown with 9:50 remaining in the first quarter.

With the first quarter coming to a close, an offside penalty on the Monarchs helped the Cougars gain 5 yards on a 4th and four, setting them up for a touchdown to end the quarter. Valley committed a total of three penalties in the 1st half, including two personal fouls.

Opening up the second quarter, the Monarchs ran three plays for a total of 62 yards in 55 seconds, culminating with a 34 yard touchdown pass by Foli to freshman wide receiver Graham Blubaugh.

The momentum looked to have shifted in Valley's favor after they scored a total of three touchdowns in the second quarter bringing the score to 17-6. But the Cougars responded quickly with an 88 yard kickoff return, shifting the game to a five point deficit opening the 2nd quarter.

The Monarchs continued to put points on the board to end the quarter, with back-to-back touchdown receptions

by Wagner following multiple stops on the defensive end, bringing the score to 31-20.

One accurate pass after another by Foli gave the Monarchs the advantage in this game, finishing the game with a near 50 percent completion rate for 164 yards and three touchdowns.

Foli's day was done following his third touchdown pass.

Coming into this game, both teams lost their previous two games and only scored in double digits one time. Leaving the door wide open for an easy blow-out win for the Monarchs because Southwest Football allowed over 58 points and a total of 330 yards this season.

Valley failed to maintain control of the game because every time they scored a touchdown, their defense would fail to stop the Cougar's offense, allowing 261 passing yards and 117 rushing yards.

The Monarch defense has been struggling to hold teams on long drives. The defense struggles with long drives and does not force a turnover.

After the game, even though the Monarchs won, Coach Towns was not happy with the team's defense.

"When I reflect back on the week, they had a really good week at practice," said head coach Lester Towns. "As a coach, you wanna have those days where you gotta motivate them, and for the most I was proud of the energy they brought to the game."

The Monarch's next game is on the road on Saturday, Sep. 24 at 6 p.m. against Citrus College.

## Monarchs dominated by Lancer offense

The LAVC women's soccer team has yet to win an away game

SEAN SCULLY  
STAFF WRITER

Despite their efforts, Valley College (2-3-2) was unable to overcome Pasadena City College's (3-4-1) unstoppable offense last Friday and lost their third straight away game 6-2.

The Monarchs were down 3-0 coming out of the first half with only two shots on goals. Valley lacked offensive pressure and made a lot of defensive mistakes early. Pasadena City College dominated the first 45 minutes with 14 shots on goal with five corner kicks.

"Don't put your heads down! We need to go back out there and believe in ourselves," Associate head coach Melissa Fernandez shouted passionately during halftime. "We need confidence, we need leadership, we need to be brave, and we need to attack!"

Valley opened up the second half with two goals — an unassisted free kick by Angie Diaz and a breakaway liner to the corner from Melanie Velasquez. A glimmer of hope for a Monarch comeback began to rise around the 20-minute mark of the second half.

"I want to see some urgency," screamed Assistant Coach Stacey Rodwell from the sidelines. "You gotta want it!"

As the intensity and aggressiveness accelerated in the second half for the Monarchs, it was not enough to stomp out the Lancer's fiercely competitive offense.

Shortly after the second half kicked off, Monarch Emily Arzeta and Lancer Gabby Morales were both given yellow cards for fouling each other while trying to make a play on the ball as it rolled out of bounds. Thirty seconds later, Arzeta was given her second yellow card for knocking another Pasadena player to the ground, resulting in a red card which disqualified her from continuing the rest of the match. Valley played the rest of the match with one less player.

Pasadena City College was quick to extinguish Valley's flame of momentum. Goals by Lancers' Devin Zamora, Athena Vournas, and Meghan Schmidt secured the win for PCC and erased any chance of victory for the Monarchs.

Just before the game's final whistle, PCC's Meghan Schmidt recorded her second hat trick getting a lead pass from teammate Athena Vournas before stopping on a breakaway to drive a high shot into the upper net.

The Lancers peppered 23 shot attempts and nearly scored on a few other opportunities. PCC starting goalie Stevie Mancillas made two saves in the first half while reserve Jesua Garcia made four saves.

Valley's offense struggled only to fire eight shots on goals while Monarch goalie Kristen Lum made seven saves throughout the game.

"That was the poorest game we've played in a very long time and I expect more out of us as a team and coaching staff," admitted Head Coach Greg Venger after the match. "We are not the team you saw here today."

The Valley College women's soccer team has lost three of their last games and has yet to win an away match bringing their record to 2-3-2.

Valley will face Los Angeles City College at home at 3:00 pm.

"The changes come from more involvement on my end. I'm not just there to assist, I am there to be more of a leader for them."

- Head Coach  
Andrea Contreras

OBSERVATION- Contreras is observing the swing of first year Cynthia Torres to work on mechanics.



JEREMY RUIZ | VALLEY STAR

## New captain looks to right softball ship

Andrea Contreras takes over the softball program and looks to rebuild after the team suffered 23 losses last season.

NICHOLAS OROZCO  
SPORTS EDITOR

Andrea Contreras takes over the softball program following former head coach Greg Venger stepping down following last season.

Following last season's losing streak with an overall record of 7-23, after four years at the helm, head coach Greg Venger stepped down, allowing Contreras to take the wheel.

As a student herself, the coach received her bachelor's degree in Kinesiology at Cal Baptist University. She is now on track to receive her master's degree in educa-

tion from National University.

The new head coach understands the struggles of chasing education while also being a student athlete. She wants to lead by example, be open and approachable when it comes to common struggles. The former collegiate athlete understands athletics is not the only focus these young women should have. While the importance of academics is on her mind, she is also looking for young women to join her squad that can manage their time and be available to help the team.

The former athlete of Mt. Sac and Mission college is looking to run the show and make positive changes in which she can shape this program into her own. Contreras initially started off with the program as assis-

tant coach following a recommendation from Venger back in 2017. Since then she has assisted Venger in achieving a record of 60-61 in assisting Venger. He led his team to two winning seasons during the 2018 and 2019 seasons, since COVID-19 his winning seasons have become losing seasons.

"She's been here as an assistant since 2017, so it will be exciting for her [Contreras]," said athletic director and baseball head coach Dave Mallas. "We're really excited for her."

With a change of head coach also comes a change of pace within the team. Following the first few changes she intends to put more time into the program. Softball practice is three times a week prior to the season, and once the season

begins practice will become mandatory and daily. This will also include trips to the weight room and conditioning.

These changes are already in effect, with other relative changes she intends to make she will look to slowly implement other changes as the season comes ever closer.

Last season, the transitional effects from COVID-19, combined with players not focused on softball, hamstrung the team. Contreras wants to make this program more serious — a softball first program. Her inaugural season will be the 2023 spring season. Her intentions are to polish the program and eventually win.

"Now it's her program," said Mallas.



Ana Contreras explores her creative side as she paints a scene of two cats.

Griffin O'Rourke | Valley Star



Oscar Hernandez, an Anthropology professor at Valley, and his daughter Penny participate at the Bob Ross Painting Day.

Griffin O'Rourke | Valley Star



Griffin O'Rourke | Valley Star

People attend the ASU led Bob Ross Painting Day as the Armenian Club protests the recent conflicts between Azerbaijan and Armenia in the Student Union Plaza. Videos of Bob Ross teaching viewers how to paint were played on a projector and attendees either followed along or painted their own scenes on a canvas.



Jeremy Ruiz | Valley Star

Mia Sanchez, the ASU fine arts commissioner, organized the day of painting for attendees to relax and destress.

# Happy Little Canvasses

Paint, palletes and Bob Ross help students relax creatively

The ASU started off their series of activities with Bob Ross Painting Day last Thursday. Rows of tables and chairs were set up along with a projector playing videos of art instructor and television host Bob Ross, as Monarchs followed the tutorials. The event was organized by Mia Sanchez, the fine art commissioner of the ASU, who was assisted by Diego Enriquez, the ASU treasurer. The morning of painting, which lasted from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., served as an outlet for attendees to relax and destress through creativity. Various people from all over the campus participated, including

Valley College anthropology professor Oscar Hernandez who brought his daughter Penny Hernandez. The Armenian Club stopped by the art event, as they planned to spread their message throughout campus, with signs protesting the recent conflicts between Azerbaijan and Armenia. Attendees heard about the event through the various flyers posted around campus and the ASU's Instagram page. Sanchez, proud with the reception, is planning more artistic events. Future ASU events include chess game night and bubble soccer.



Griffin O'Rourke | Valley Star

Nelson Williams follows along with Bob Ross' tutorial and paints his white canvas blue.



Griffin O'Rourke | Valley Star

Used paint tray palletes at the Bob Ross Painting Day.