Summer ’08 Aviation Program Awaits Approval

Story By
Bill Buttler
Co-News Editor

Victor Valley College’s Airframe Program is looking to launch this summer, pending Federal Aeronautics Administration’s stamp of approval. Once sanctioned, the program will enable training of students in many facets of aircraft maintenance and prepare candidates to test for FAA certification.

“This is a program built upon a huge collaborative partnership among the college, city of Victorville and entities of San Bernardino County, including the supervisor’s office and the workforce investment board,” said Vocational Academic Dean Nick Parisi of VVC.

Created by the Victor Valley Aviation Education Consortium to address the changing and future needs of the high desert, the project needs FAA blessing to achieve its intended status. By demonstrating what is being taught is acceptable to FAA standards, teachers will develop and show FAA that lab set-up and curriculum clear necessary hurdles.

Contributions to the VVAEC effort include more than $700,000 in government donations for classroom renovation to create lab space and fully equip those labs to FAA specifications.

“There’s a lot of ‘in-kind’ funding by employers putting generous time into helping pull the program together,” said Parisi.

Students interested in participating in the program must obtain a special application available on the VVC website. The classes will be held at Southern California Logistics Airport (formerly George Air Force Base). The year-round course will take two years minimum to finish. Following completion students then will take written, oral and practical hands-on tests to obtain FAA certification.

The curriculum will focus on three core technologies. General Aviation addresses applied math, electricity and physics. Airframe content will deal with structural integrity, along with detailed instrument, navigation and fuel applications. Power plant instruction will provide propulsion principles and teach ignition, cooling and exhaust components.

As the local population increases so does the need for technology.

Going “Green” with Wind Turbines

Story By
Katie Bussey
Photo/Online Editor

Victor Valley College plans to move forward with the “Green Movement” by installing a 314 foot wind turbine on the lower east side of campus. An existing tower resides there that was built for instruments to be placed on top measuring wind direction and speed as a test tower.

The wind turbine tower itself will stand at 230 feet with two blades, each standing 32 stories high with a diameter of 165 feet, and will be virtually silent.

The wind turbine will produce 15 percent of the schools energy, saving the school tons of money as well as providing training programs in the technological aspect of running the turbines.

“I’d like to be a leader in the community on saving energy, in using renewable sources and becoming a demonstration,” said college president Dr. Robert Silverman.

Wind turbines are used as a cheaper source for renewable energy that can replace coal-fired electric plants and the expensive natural gases.

Although an environmentally safe alternative only 3,200 turbines were installed last year producing 5,200 megawatts, over one percent of the power supply in the United States. The turbines that were installed could power 1.5 million homes a year alone.

“It’s our future, we can’t continue to co-exist with nature unless we start being more respectful and take care of it a little bit better,” said Silverman.

Questions and concerns that are being raised with college neighbors are the noise, which is non-existent, and reduced visibility, which is inevitable, but for the common good of the future.

Dr. Silverman is hopeful to begin production next fall, a rough estimate because of the lack of funding it currently has.
Performing Arts Center Construction Completed

Story and Photos By Karen Howell
Co-News Editor

The Performing Arts Center expansion has been completed in time to host the 2008 Spring Semester theater arts classes and performances.

“We (Victor Valley College Performing Arts Center) are the cultural center of the community and we now have the facility to expand the theater program,” said Dr. John Rude, Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences. Dr. Rude added that “many new theatrical experiences are now available to both the students and the people of the Victor Valley Community”.

“Victor Valley College Presents Red Carpet Events (Your Seat is Waiting)” is the theme for the newly expanded Performing Arts Center according to Dr. Rude. William Shakespeare’s A Midsummer Night’s Dream has been chosen by Ed Heaberlin, professor of Arts and Speech Communications, to open the theatre in Summer ‘08.

The stagecraft class in theatre design is taking advantage of their doubled space to construct five “locations” for Guys and Dolls including the use of revolving sets, according to Lee Harris, professor of Theater Arts. This class will provide opportunities to design productions in both the main and the experimental theatres. Students interested in stagecraft still have time to sign up.

A unique improvement to the facility has been the removal of a family of skunks that resided in the old wall between the women’s restroom and the stagecraft area, according to Gildard. His favorite skunk story concerned a particular skunk that strayed into a closet adjoining the old dressing area. The maintenance men unwisely threw a mop at it and the resulting stench lasted for at least 6 months.

A costume class, taught by Theresa Mirici-Smith, Department Chair, has been added as a result of the expanded space. This will also solve the “jumbled mess” costume problem by providing on-site space for storage and organization, according to Dr. Rude.

Improvements to the main auditorium include a lobby with doubled space, added restrooms, a refurbished stage and many other upgrades. The seating remains unchanged at more than 473 seats but provides plenty of room for audiences, according to Dr. Rude.

“We are working hard to develop a certificate in theatre in the near future,” Dr. Rude said when asked about additional goals for the program.
Heard Around the Lake
Interviews By Tessa Willis

“What do you think about the new buildings on campus now that they are completed?”

“They took a long time to do it, but it was worth the wait.” - Kenny Sousa

“It didn’t look like a college before, and now it does.” - Meena Jamly

“They look very nice.” - Christian Rodriguez

“The revolving door is scary when you get stuck in it.” - Stephanie Velez

“Besides the fact that the teachers offices are lined up like a puppy mill, they are exciting. It’s really a great thing for VVC.” - Tim Adell

“I really like the new technology building. It’s definitely an improvement. It makes the campus look a lot nicer.” - Jose Gonzalez

“It’s awesome, and the computers are really nice. It feels like a real college.” - Melissa Morales

“The buildings are very upscale, and smell new. They are really nice, and I like them a lot.” - Derek McEntire

Alleged Campus Rape Provokes Improvements on Campus

Story By Brandon Chiz
Assistant Editor-in-Chief

On Sept. 10, 2007, authorities were notified of a suspected rape on the upper campus of Victor Valley College near the Jacaranda bus-stop.

San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department took over the case when the victim reported the rape at a local liquor store and told the deputies she was taken by two men in a black vehicle, raped and dropped off on the lower side of the campus. A semester has passed since, with deputies still on the case.

When being interviewed about specific details, the victim had trouble identifying the suspects’ appearance or the details of the car. At the time the victim was reported as traumatized by Chief of Campus Police Jack Thomas and could not recall much for the interview with the deputies.

“She couldn’t provide a lot of information at the time,” said Detective James Wiebeld. Because of the alleged rape, the campus promised to improve lighting and intensify the police force as well as offer police escorts to students’ cars.

When asked if students feel safer, Amanda Norton, a Liberal Arts major at VVC, said, “I was scared when I first heard about it, I started carrying pepper spray. But I felt better by the increase in security and the appearance of the campus doing something about it”.

Thomas wants students to know that there have been improvements on campus since the incident, “We’ve inserted an electronic gate near the baseball field,” said Thomas. “We also put in a new light in the lower campus.” Thomas also indicated that new security cameras have been installed on the upper campus and inside the new Advanced Technology Center.

Police escorts are still available on campus, and students can call the office and request an officer to escort them to their vehicle.

Although in a pending investigation with no leads and limited description, Detective Wiebeld feels confident about solving the case.

“We take it day by day with again, the limited information provided,” Wiebeld said.

Even though no one has been caught, the charges still stand, and the VVC rape record will not change. Pamphlets are still available to students for safety tips and on sexual assault.
Club Culture Day Rocks VVC

Story By
Ivannia Alay
Co-Features Editor

Spring semester has started and what better way for Victor Valley College to get organized than to hold a Spring Welcome Week. ASB started the week off with a scavenger hunt. Students were required to collect Mardi Gras beads from different departments and people on campus for a chance to win a Macbook laptop and printer followed by other prizes such as an iPod shuffle, iTunes cards and $25 Rams Bookstore gift card. Students also had the opportunity to win movie passes, a lunch for two at Applebee's or a $20 S&B foods card.

Club Culture Day took place on Wednesday Feb. 13. Victor Valley College clubs and organizations such as The Christian Club, Pasadena College, Laverne University, A.S.L (American Sign Language), Black Student Union, A.W.A.R.E club, Ready Rams Club, ASB, and a potential basketball team club met at the Student Activities Center. Loads of information about extracurricular activities, organizations and clubs were available for students.

Club Culture Day also held “Day Before Heartbreak” music festival. Among the bands that played were Cast in Audio, Losers of the Year, Taking Second, Contagious, Liberty Valance and many more. A belly dancer was also present and performed.

Block Party Informs Students on Campus Programs

Story By
Diana Cansino
Co-Features Editor

On Thursday Feb. 14 a block party was held in the Student Activities Center from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. It was a chance for students to learn about programs that the campus has to offer.

Among the programs that attended were the Title Five, Ram Jam, Upward Bound, Financial Aid Department, the Nursing Program, Writing Center and others.

Title Five is a program funded by the Department of Education. For students starting off in English 6 or 50, Title Five offers free sessions, and they specialize in helping ESL (English as a Secondary Language) students as well. At their booth there was information on when the sessions begin as well as assistance in filling out financial aid forms. There will be two sessions available in English and Spanish.

The Nursing Program also participated in the block party and had flyers for potential nursing students who are interested in the medical field. These flyers also contained information on the criteria needed to become a nurse. If students would like a layout of the classes needed they should make an appointment with Dianne Waldon in the counseling office.

Another program involved in the block party and new to the school is the Upward Bound. This program is funded by the U.S. Department of Education and is designed to help high school students in getting a head start in college. They tutor students and prepare them for the SAT. They also help students apply for financial aid and guide them in enrolling in college.

U.B. program is also looking for VVC students to tutor in math and science; interested students can drop by building 50 to pick up an application. For any other questions regarding U.B. program contact Kevin Barda at (760)245-4271 extension 2395, or Robert Sewell at extension 2583.

One booth at the block party represented the Writing Center, located in the Advanced Technology Center room 177, which offers help for students struggling with writing. The lab is open Monday through Thursday form 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

VVC Celebrates Black History Month

Brief By
Carrie Smart
Editor-in-Chief

In celebration of Black History Month the Black Student Union, Associated Student Body council and the Black History Month Planning Committee teamed up to host a series of events, starting on Feb. 19 with a showing of the movie “Boycott” in the Student Activities Center. The following days were host to an African/African American art display, soul food lunch and an African American History Month performance. Events will continue through Feb. 29.

Upcoming Events:
Feb. 26 Students, Faculty and Staff Game Night 4:30 p.m.–9 p.m., lower level of SAC, bring your own games
Feb. 27 “Brown Bag” showing of the movie “Crash” with discussion following 11:30 a.m.–3 p.m., SAC rooms C and D
Feb. 29 Spoken Word, Movie “Do the Right Thing” with popcorn 5:30 p.m.–9 p.m., upper level of SAC

For more information on events contact Janet Long at (760) 245-4271 extension 2583 or Robert Sewell at extension 2395.
Basketball Looks for Strong Finish

Story By
Darryl Richie
Co-Sports Editor

Victor Valley College Men’s Basketball Team defeated San Jacinto College 76-72 in a home game on Feb. 2.

The Rams are 15-11 and 4-4 in the Foothill Conference. The Rams victory over the no. 8-ranked Eagles gives them the confidence they need for the upcoming playoffs.

Point guard Deanard Crouch had a game high of 22 points with four rebounds and four assists to help his team to victory.

Alan Alston led the Rams with 23 points, Eric Bailey had 17 points, Deanard Crouch and Dwight Gordon tied with 15 points each, and Eric Canales contributed nine points. Overall the Rams played a great game, but could not get over the hump to pull off the victory.

Eric Bailey said, “We have to work on individual defense, free throws, and rebounding. “We work on those sky’s the limit,” Dudgeon said, “People are missing out, this is a pretty good basketball team. We beat good teams, we showed character.”

VVC faces off against College of the Desert on Saturday, Feb. 19 in an away game in Palm Desert at 7 p.m.

VVC Softball Stops Short of Victory

Story By
Zac Varela
Co-Sports Editor

The wind was blowing and love was in the air as the Victor Valley College Women’s Softball Team took the field Feb. 14. The day featured a double header against the Jaguars of Southwestern College.

It didn’t start off well for the Lady Rams as they fell behind early and were unable to get anything going as they lost the first game 8-0.

“We had the wrong mix of players out there,” Coach Donell Thomas said after the game. “Right now we are working on the team’s chemistry and trying to put our best players on the field.”

The Lady Rams woke up for the second game as they came out swinging taking a 7-2 lead going into the 5th inning, that’s when the Jaguars started to make a comeback.

In the final inning VVC was up 7-5, but that suddenly changed when they made some costly errors off of bad throws that should have been routine outs. The Jaguars ended up scoring 4 runs, and never looked back as they won 9-7.

“We got cocky, lost our minds, and lost focus. We need to stay more focused” Coach Thomas said. “We have some injuries, a new pitcher and we need to get everyone here.”

On Feb. 21. The Lady’s took the field against Imperial Valley College.

The Rams made a 7th inning comeback scoring 3 runs, but it wasn’t enough as they lost 4-3.

The Lady Rams are still looking for their first win of the season.

There next chance is against Antelope Valley Feb. 27 as they start conference play.

“Cleaning up our mistakes and working on our mental game, the game is all mental,” said Coach Thomas on how the team will prepare for the Foothill conference.

Double Wins Boost Rams

Story By
Darryl Richie
Co-Sports Editor

Victor Valley pulled off two victories in a double-header against Imperial Valley College by scores of 4-3 and 6-0. The home baseball games were played Thursday, February 14 at 12:00 and 2:30 p.m.

Les Palcsik was 4-5 hits for both games wrapping a double and scoring three runs. Daniel Williamson was 3-5 with a stolen base and two runs scored. Williamson also pitched a two-hit shut out only allowing two singles in the second game.

This was a big victory for the Rams, after struggling early in the season.

Head coach Robert Smith said, “We have to do a better job hitting the ball away, making adjustments at the plate, we will work on that tomorrow.”

In the second game the Rams turned into a different team by not allowing the Arabs to score any runs.

Derek Richie said, “We hit the ball good in the second game, they didn’t score, we got quick outs.”

League games are approaching and the Rams are confident and ready for the competition. Richie said, “If we come out with good intensity every game we could be good contenders.”

“We played two games really well, we started out slow, said Smith, “Blane Lloyd and Daniel Williamson played well today.”

Victor Valley played against Los Angeles City on Saturday, Feb. 16 in a home game at noon and lost 7-0.
Memorial Concert Pays Tribute at High Desert Nightclub

Story By
Breanna Aguirre
Co-Entertainment Editor

Despite the tragic loss of her friends, Christopher Cody Thompson and Bodhi Sherzer-Potter, Kymberly Snyder, 18, has managed to bring unity to a community and hope to the families and friends of the two murdered teens.

With the help of her best friend, Jennifer Rodgers, Snyder was able to plan and successfully hold a benefit concert in her friends’ names.

Snyder was in Nebraska visiting family when the murders took place and was unable to take part in the “It’s a Grind Night” to honor them, and missed the candlelight vigil as well.

“I just felt as though I needed to do something so that I could help out the families, so the idea of the concert sprung up,” she said.

The event took place at Karma Nightclub in Victorville on Friday Jan. 25, with headlining band Lorene Drive, who was more than cooperative when asked to do the benefit.

The audience consisted of many local fans, including Victorville resident, Jorge Gil, who is a big LD fan.

“When I got there, my only intention was to see the band. I didn’t know that I would end up wanting to make contributions for people I had never met!” he admits.

Other performers included Prima- vera, Ricky Rich, Ecco, Keeping Secrets, Mandaylýn’s Belle, and special acoustic performances by family and friends wanting to honor Thompson and Potter.

Fundraisers and donations were made, including a 42-inch plasma television donated by Midway Appliances, and earrings from The Jewelry Center and Daniel’s Jewelry. Tattoo artist Jamie Schene was also helpful as he tattooed at the event to raise money for the families. 100 percent of his earnings were split between both the victims’ families.

Snyder comments that the turnout was absolutely amazing.

“When I walked on stage to present the pictures to the families, I was in awe of the amount of people I saw.”

With nearly $6,000 raised, Snyder says that the benefit’s proceeds did not only go better than expected, but she believes its success was “Absolutely a God send.”

New Paintball Park Offers Messy Alternative to Family Outings

Story and Photos By
Kim Hill
Co-Entertainment Editor

Giant Paintball Park had its ribbon cutting ceremony on Feb. 16. The park, which has been open since Jan. 5, is located on 7th Street at the Victorville Fairgrounds.

The ceremony was simple with no speeches. The ribbon was cut after noon with park workers and players watching and joining in.

Giant Paintball is a place that most can enjoy. It can be anyone from a worker, a first time player, or someone who’s been playing for years. It’s not just normal old paintball. There is scenario, speedball and an airsoft field.

There are different people that enjoy the park. Matt Gamboa, a referee at that park, enjoys working there because of the action and movement. “It isn’t boring.” Gamboa said.

Kortney Steiner-Graves, a student from Victor Valley College, likes the fact that the park is organized and that you’re not playing out in the desert. One thing that people may enjoy, as Kortney said, “You can take your family out and shoot them but not get in trouble for it.”

Some people may ask how the park came be at the fairgrounds. The idea came about a year ago, manager Randy Bocelli said that the fairgrounds were chosen because of not only the space but because no problems came about when getting that space.

Giant Paintball is open on weekends from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Anyone ages ten and up can play. It costs $15 for entrance to the park. If a person does not have all or any equipment it can be rented. Rental prices vary depending on what item is to be rented. More information on rentals and the park in general can be found on http://www.giantpaintball.com
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The views expressed by the RamPage are not necessarily those of VVC, its board of trustees, its administration, its faculty, its staff, its Associated Student Body Council or its students.

The RamPage welcomes press releases, story ideas, letters to the editor, guest articles and guest editorials. Submit proposed items to the on-campus mailbox of RamPage Adviser Judith Pfeffer — clearly marked as being submitted for publication. Or, email them to VVCRamPage@hotmail.com or mail information to RamPage, Victor Valley College, 18422 Bear Valley Road, Victorville, CA 92395 or leave a message at 760-245-4271 extension 2773.

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