Budget Cuts Threaten Winter Intersession

Story By
Katie Bussey
Co-Features Editor

Education across California expects to be hit hard with the upcoming budget cuts and Victor Valley College is no exception. A close estimate of a $5 million reduction in VVC funding that will take effect July 1st, 2008, is forcing administration to make changes in order to meet requirements.

The decrease in funding only covers one percent of the five percent increase in students at VVC each year.

Despite rumors of lay-offs in other surrounding districts VVC is avoiding staff lay-offs at all costs. However, a continuing discussion on whether or not a Winter Intersession will still exist or be reduced is still being explored.

"For financial aid, if I was unable to complete required units for fall, I could make it up in the Winter Session. Without Winter Session that option wouldn’t be available to me," said freshman Edmundo Vides. "No matter what’s going on in my life, I would have to take a full load in the fall."

Many students on campus rely on the extra winter session to catch up or complete requirements. The winter session is a chance for students to keep from falling behind since classes are difficult to obtain during the crowded Fall Session.

"My commitment is to try and make a decision on the winter term as soon as I possibly can," said Dr. Robert Silverman.

Final decisions cannot be made regarding specifics due to decisions still being made by the California State Legisla-

MUN Raises Needed Funds for NY

Story By
Joan Beinschroth-Paustell
RamPage Reporter

The Victor Valley College Model United Nations club has been successful in its fund raising efforts, allowing it to attend the national MUN conference in New York for five days, beginning April 22. According to Dino Bozonelos, VVC Political Science instructor and MUN advisor, VVC is the only community college in Southern California that does not provide a line item budget amount for its MUN club. The club must actively pursue funding itself.

Although late in arriving, MUN has received $9 thousand by recycling thousands of ink cartridges for a Staples program. The Victorville Rotary, the Victorville Bar Association and an anonymous individual donor also aided the effort to raise funds. In addition, Bozonelos expressed his thanks to Ginger Ontiveros from the VVC Foundation and Sharon Wright and Robert Sewell from VVC Auxiliary Services for their support.

The VVC MUN club has been competing at the Model United Nations conference in New York since 2002. Representing different countries each year, they began garnering awards in 2004 when they received an honorable mention for Tajikistan. In 2005, 2006 and 2007 participants were awarded Outstanding Delegation and Outstanding Position Paper titles for Bosnia-Herzegovina, Albania and Malaysia.

This year the club will be representing Azerbaijan at the conference. Fourteen students from the club were chosen to attend based on their application and exam results. They will be joining approximately 4,500 other college and university students at the conference. According to Bozanels, his students "work their butts off" learning about the assigned country and its positions on important topics. The students will represent Azerbaijan on a total of seven committees. Four are General Assembly committees, G.A. Plenary, G.A. First Plenary, G.A. First Assembly committees, G.A. First Assembly committees, G.A. First Assembly committees, G.A. First Assembly committees, G.A. First Assembly committees, G.A. First Assembly committees, G.A. First Assembly committees, G.A. First Assembly committees, G.A. First Assembly committees.
VVC Vice President Leaves School

Story By
Nancy Sexton
RamPage Reporter

Bruce Baron, Vice President of Administrative Services, left Victor Valley College on March 31 and began employment at Los Angeles City College on April 1.

Baron said, “My time spent at VVC has been one of the greatest experiences of my life. I leave with a heavy heart after three years and I have no regrets. I am now going forward with a new opportunity for me and my family at LACC.” Baron will not have a contract at LACC but his title will remain the same and his earnings will be comparable to VVC.

According to a LACC news release, “Baron holds a Bachelor’s Degree from the City University of New York and a Master’s Degree in Adult and Community Education from City College of New York. He has been working on a doctoral program in higher education administration with a concentration in computer information systems. He is also working on a doctorate in natural health.”

Baron is proud of the relationships he built with faculty and staff over the last three years and what they were able to accomplish by working together. As a team they built a new budget process, a program review process, developed a master plan for the college, built two new buildings and by working together they were able to balance the budget and build a reserve balance.

According to Baron, most of his decisions were made by asking himself, “How does this help students?” Baron said, “VVC can be the best community college in California because it has the greatest staff and faculty; it just needs stable leadership and vision at the top level.”

Kevin Crowley, VVC Learning Management System Administrator, said, “I enjoyed working with Bruce Baron. He really cared about the students and the staff. It is the college’s loss that he has left VVC.”

Audrey Vaughn, Baron’s secretary, said, “I have worked with Bruce Baron for two years. I am very sad to see him go. He is a wonderful person to work with.”

Campus Hosts Two Community Service Events

Story By
Roderick Allen Gray Jr.
Freelance Writer

On April 9 the campus facilities at Victor Valley College played host to two separate community service events designed to develop the interest of elementary school and high school students to continue their process of education on the conventional standards of today’s social norms. Associated Student Body President Heena Mara lead the tour of ASB Senators and 150 fifth grade students from Victor Valley School District’s Park Side Elementary.

The campus tour is an annual event conducted during the spring session when the VVC campus facilities and affiliated departmental resources are completely open to accommodate curious guests.

“This is the functional aspect of our ‘Aim High Program,’” said Mrs. Gloria Ford whose fifth grade class waited patiently for their turn to tour the Ram’s Bookstore and the Student Activities Center. “This program is designed to develop the interest of attending college after high school in the minds of school age students early on before they even become distracted with the issues that involve adolescent life, and we have an arrangement with the Foundation here at the college that rewards these students with scholarships for academic excellence and will allow them the opportunity to pursue their dreams of attending college.”

This was an opportunity for the student leadership of VVC to give back to the community while at the same time inspire a group of students to become future leaders.

In a separate event the American Association of University Women held their annual series of workshops and seminars in VVC’s SAC for female high school students from the Victor Valley area School Districts. The girls were enlightened to the future career possibilities offered to college graduates. There were PowerPoint presentations that depict the corporate advances of Boeing aerospace, FBI crime solving exercises, simulated well water and aquifer experiments provided by the Mojave Water District and animated illustrations of space exploration in the classroom provided by VVC’s Professor of Astronomy Linda Kelley, the Lewis Center and the Goldstone Apple Valley Radio Telescope Project.
Women of VVC Honored in March Celebration

Story By
Roderick Allen Gray Jr.
Freelance Writer

Victor Valley College President Dr. Robert Silverman welcomed guests, members of faculty, campus staff, and the Associated Student Body council on March 27 to the second annual National Women’s History Celebration. The event acknowledged the multi-dimensional women of VVC for their accomplishments and contributions to the institution’s learning environment.

Faculty nominees for the 2008 academic year were as follows:

Claudia Basha for her exhibition of excellence in VVC’s Department of Humanities and instructing students in the areas of French, the curriculum core of English classes and directing the talents of VVC Drama students in seasonal play productions.

Theresa Shellcroft for her amazing and creative interaction with students in VVC’s Department of Art and adding her instrumental council to the Black Student Union club; Shellcroft’s diligent planning facilitated VVC’s 2008 Martin Luther King birthday recognition reception and a host of events commemorating Black History month.

Lisa Ellis and Tracy Davis for providing their students in the Department of History to experience the uniquely passionate instruction these two faculty members bring to the courses of History they teach, adding the essential element of dimensional variety to the learning environment at VVC.

Classified Staff member nominees Jennifer Fowlie, Mary Martin, Pamela James and Audrey Williams were nominated for the exceptional provision of excellent service to students through their years as dedicated VVC employees.

Student nominees were recognized for their unselfish service to fellow students and committed contributions to the Victor Valley Community were as follows:

Cathy Cosgrove for her contribution of service to the community through the Ready Rams Club.

Dewey Kelleygray and her committed service through the Future Teachers of America Club.

Nicole Higgins and Krista Caruso were also acknowledged for academic achievements.

Jaye Tashima was the recipient of this award last year and announced this year’s results. The Victor Valley College National Women’s History Celebration recipients for 2007-2008 were announced as follows:

Dewey Kelleygray for her outstanding academic achievement as performed by a returning non-conventional student.

Audrey Williams for the exceptional exhibition of service by a classified member of VVC Staff, and named for her commitment to excellence at this institution of higher learning.

Jim Ledford Brings Campaign to VVC

Story By
Karen Howell
Co-News Editor

Palmdale Mayor Jim Ledford, a Republican candidate for the California 36th District’s Assemblyman, held a campaign meeting in the Student Activities Center at Victor Valley College on April 15 at 7 p.m.

Ledford said that transportation and air quality are among his highest priorities and he wants to implement “full widening of Highway 138 with two lanes in each direction,” and he hopes to implement completion of the High Desert Corridor which will connect the airports in Victorville and Palmdale.

Ledford said there is a “need to be prepared for growth,” and the projected growth will be mostly young families who are looking for home ownership and good jobs. He said that he would continue to invite and to help sustain businesses.

On immigration, Ledford said that “the middle class is under siege and is being replaced by cheap labor or outsourced overseas,” and there should be “no state benefits without a state identification card.”

According to Ledford’s website, the 36th District has a population of about 424 thousand people and includes Palmdale, Lancaster, Adelanto and Victorville plus a large unincorporated area that includes portions of Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties.

Ledford, one of three Republican candidates on the ballot in the June 3 Republican Primary Election, said, “I am the only one with any local government experience.” Ledford served on the Palmdale Planning Commission from 1986 through 1990 and held the office of Palmdale City Councilman from 1990 until his election as Palmdale Mayor in 1992. He is serving out the last of nine two-year terms in that capacity because he has reached his term limit.

Freshman Palmdale City Councilman Steve Knight and Antelope Valley College Board Member Steve Fox are the other Republican candidates for 36th District Assemblyman.

Two Democratic candidates, Linda Jones and Maggie Campbell, are also competing against each other to face the Republican winner in the 2008 General Election. Sharon Runner, the current Assemblywoman, has reached her limit of three consecutive two-year terms and will be stepping down.

Shirley Snell-Gonzalez, Administrative Assistant of the Department of Auxiliary Services, said that persons or groups desiring to hold an event at VVC are required to call, e-mail or Fax a request and then are sent a form to fill out and return. If the calendar is open and insurance requirements are met, the applying group or persons are charged a fee based on the amount of space and services needed.
Heard Around the Lake
Interviews By Kim Hill, Co-Entertainment Editor
“What did you do on your spring break?”

“I helped my best friend move and partied.”
-Ron Strauss

“We hung out, watched movies and swam.”
-Sarah Baker

“I worked and practiced for Guys and Dolls.”
-Justin Hill

“Sat at home and played on my computer.”
-Daniel Taylor

“I got on MySpace, talked to my friends and slept in. It was good to sleep in.”
-Brad Cogan

“Hung out with my boyfriend. Nothing big.”
-Tammy Johnson

Going Green: Recycling Program Reduces Landfill Waste

Story By
Micah Silke
RamPage Reporter

The recycling program at Victor Valley College started in July and has already kept 40 tons of trash out of local landfills.

Tammy Tipples, the recycling technician at VVC, runs the recycling maintenance and operations from a warehouse on lower campus and from her truck which was provided for the program. Tipples has a daily routine of collecting recyclables from recycling receptacles around campus.

“It’s a lot easier now that I can drive the full loop,” Tipples said, referring to the area near the new Advanced Technology Center on the upper campus.

At the warehouse Tipples separates and packages tons of goods, otherwise considered trash, to be recycled. She also finds ways to reuse items that previously went to landfills like binders and CD cases.

“These binders all came from the new technologies building,” Tipples said, pointing to a large box full of three ringed binders. “I will recycle the white paper inside and the non recyclable binders can be used by the art center.”

Grass is also being recycled now by switching from lawn mowers to mulchers that turn grass clippings into compost.

Last year a bill was signed that forced the school to be more environmentally conscious and reduce the amount of trash sent to landfills by 50 percent; by switching to mulchers that goal was met.

Correction


The loss of water through evaporation and percolation from the campus lake is not 400 gallons a minute. There are no figures available on the amount of water lost. 400 gallons per minute is the amount of water pumped into the lake from each of two wells, for a total amount of 800 gallons per minute.

The lake was rejected as part of a tubal cooling system for two reasons. The first reason is that any leak in the cooling system would require removal of the tubing system from the lake for repair. The second reason is that lowering the temperature of the coolant in the tubing would raise the temperature of the water in the lake.

Phase two of the hydronic piping system was completed at the same time as Phase one, which included the Advanced Technology Center and the Speech and Drama Addition.
Financial Aid Hopes to Boost Awareness

Story By
Diana Cansino
Co-Features Editor

The Victor Valley College Financial Aid Department set up an information booth outside of the Student Activities Center on April 14 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., and had free lemonade provided by Hot Dog on a Stick.

The Financial Aid department was providing free flyers and pamphlets for students interested in applying for FASFA and Cal Grants. The pamphlets included information and tips on how to fill out your student aid application, as well as a guide to all the Cal Grants including websites that you can log onto and apply.

Many students took advantage of their services to ask how and when to apply for student aids. Financial Aid Acting Director Greg Ryan explained that even though you may not qualify for student aid one year doesn’t mean you shouldn’t still apply each year. Each year you have a new chance to be eligible; depending on if you are at a university or how many people in your household are also attending college and other criteria as well that is taken into account for your eligibility.

Along with receiving information students also had a chance to put their names in a raffle.

For students interested in more information on Cal Grants and FASFA the Financial Aid department is located in Student Services 1 Building 52 next to the admissions office.

Sidewalk Sale Offers Deals on Merchandise

Story and Photo By
Melissa Gomez
RamPage Reporter

The Victor Valley College Rams Bookstore held its first ever indoor “Sidewalk” Sale located under the big tent in the Student Activities Center. The sales began on April 14 and ran through April 16 and consisted of VVC logo wear, sweats, t-shirts, summer wear, blankets, board games and lots more.

According to Carl Durheim the Sidewalk Sale could not be placed outside because there was no way to successfully place electrical items on the sidewalk but students were still able to enjoy great prices ranging from 25 percent to 75 percent off many items.

According to Maria Rempfer the sale offered “More options for students who may have been wanting an item for a while.”

The money made from the sidewalk sale will be contributed to the store’s annual scholarship that is offered and Rempfer said if “more people wear VVC’s clothes it will bring more school spirit.”

Each day during the sidewalk sale discounts increased along with the merchandise. Students were able to “hunt out their favorite sale,” and choose which prices they preferred for that day, said Durheim.

Director of Auxiliary Services Robert Sewell was in charge of putting the first sidewalk sale together and is planning on having another sale on April 29 at the same time as the Grad. Fair. The Fair will consist of everything needed for graduation. The items that will be included in the next “Sidewalk” Sale have not yet been decided according to Rempfer.

Small Business Day a Success

Story By
Bill Buttler
Co-News Editor

The Small Business Day, a workshop to inform and assist current and future entrepreneurs, was held at Victorville’s Hilton Garden Inn March 26 and hailed a success by hosts.

The free-admission annual event was sponsored by Desert Community Bank and the High Desert Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and presented by the Inland Empire Small Business Development Center, U.S. Small Business Administration and County of San Bernardino.

An array of stations and booths in the “expo” area were staffed by aides of local governments and businesses offering a wealth of information and opportunities in English and Spanish. Experts in marketing, lending and finance, government contracts, business plans, international trade, advertising and building advice answered questions.

On hand were representatives of Victorville, Hesperia, Apple Valley, Adelanto and Lucerne Valley with information, including incentive programs. The High Desert’s Daily Press, local CBS Radio station K-FROG, and Southwest Gas gave presentations as well.

The Inland Empire Women’s Business Center used its station to lend mentoring, training and inspiration to aspiring women business owners, also targeting services to Latina business women.

Many guests took advantage of the featured business seminars offered as part of the meeting.

DCB Marketing Specialist Beverly L. Williams greeted visitors and gave orientation at the main entrance.

Williams, who helped coordinate the event, said, “We had a really great turnout.”

K-FROG’s Local Sales Manager Bill Pettus was pleased with the show and said, “We got 20 new business leads, set two appointments, and actually sold a couple of advertising packages for the radio station. We will partner with them again next year.”
April Job Fair Expects Large Turnout

Story By
William Buttler
Co-News Editor

Be ready to answer when opportunity comes drumming on the door Tuesday, April 29, as Victor Valley College presents its Spring 2008 Job Fair at 9 a.m. in the school’s Student Activity Center.

The four-hour event is open to the community and will bring 50 employers to campus, offering hundreds of jobs.

In an announcement, VVC Placement Specialist Elizabeth Duarte said she expects about 1,500 prospective employees to attend the fair, including high school, college and university students, along with others looking to be hired.

Duarte said, “We anticipate a larger number of applicants wanting to get to talk with the wide range of employers who will be here.”

The chance to have immediate contact with so many employers is very attractive to some.

VVC student Mary Saltsman said, “This is a tremendous opportunity to engage job possibilities under one roof. It saves having to go hunting everywhere, especially for people in my age group.”

Saltsman is in her forties.

Some of the employers making their pitch include Barstow Community Hospital, ITT Corp. Systems, the National Park Service, Northrup Grumman, San Bernardino County, So Cal Edison, Walmart, the Daily Press, K-FROG, Y-102 and Cambridge College.

Parking is available in Lot 16 on lower campus and admission and parking are free. For more information, contact the VVC Student Employment Office at 245-4271, extension 2244.

Program Helps Foster Youth Pursue a Better Life

Story By
Karen Howell
Co-News Editor

The Foster Youth Initiative Program was launched last August to provide help to Victor Valley College students who are former foster youth and is already serving 80 members, according to Dee Snead, VVC program liaison.

Snead personally assists students in applying for grants, loans and scholarships, helps them to enroll in programs to ensure their academic success and help them get assistance with housing, transportation and medical needs. Former foster students should contact Snead at the Financial Aid office, extension 2473.

“Government funds are available to help foster youth become successful in pursuing a better life,” said Snead.

Eighteen year-old VVC student Raymond Barrett said “Dee Snead made me want to stay in school when I wasn’t sure I was going to.” Barrett has recently helped to start the United Youth Emissaries club in order to reach out to disenfranchised youth and to promote awareness of available programs on campus. According to Barrett, foster youth have only a one percent college graduation rate and he hopes the UYE club can provide encouragement, support and an opportunity to serve the campus and the community.

Barrett is “a standout…a true survivor,” said Snead.

Upcoming events include the first orientation for identified foster youth on April 25, Building 50, room 5 at 1 p.m. The meeting is by invitation only, and interested former students should contact Snead. Information will be provided on the Students Support Services program which, according to Office Assistant Lisa Cripps, “provides help for students who are low income, have academic need, or whose parents have not graduated from college. This program is a good thing for Foster youth because it makes (the academic experience) a little bit easier.”

Other programs discussed are the Extended Opportunity Program and Services, Disabled Students Programs and Services, Cooperative Agencies Resources for Education which helps qualified single parent students with needs such as child care, Student Support Partnerships Integrating Resources and Education—which provides support for students enrolled in Math 10 and/or English 6, and financial aid.

May is Foster Youth Awareness Month and VVC is hosting a scavenger hunt on May 23 as a fun activity to bring attention to the program, according to Snead.

Snead assured that the Foster Youth Initiative Program is confidential and provides connections to organizations such as Youth Empowerment Services Center which has an open door policy.

“We try to include kids regardless of whether they have been excluded by other programs. We try to help everyone,” said Manager Shaun Zigler.

YES offers counseling, housing help, transitional supplies and classes, gas vouchers, life skills, a career and computer lab and also partners with other organizations like the California Wellness Foundation and Desert Communities United Way. It is located in Hesperia at 9608 I Avenue.
Annual Spring Plant Sale Held

Story and Photo By
Roderick Allen Gray Jr.
Freelance Writer

On April 18 “Go Green” was the slogan as Victor Valley College’s faculty, staff and students from the Agriculture and Natural Resources Department welcomed residents of the Victor Valley to their annual Spring Plant Sale.

The gates opened at 9 a.m. and the line of interested parties passed through VVC’s greenhouse facilities to purchase a variety of house, garden and landscape plants ranging in price from $4 to $8. Flower arrangements made by VVC Floral students were also sold.

Dean of Humanities and Social Science John Rude was seen at the event and in support of the event, purchased a teddy bear floral arrangement that had been made by students.

“It think supporting campus activities is one of the things that should be of the highest priorities.” Rude said.

Proceeds from the annual event will go towards funding next year’s plant sale.

VVC Hosts Planetarium Shows

Story By
Micah Silke
RamPage Reporter

Just about every other Friday the planetarium at Victor Valley College hosts a public multimedia astronomical show. Dave Meyer, an astronomy professor at VVC, is in charge of the show.

On April 4 the planetarium hosted a show titled “Light Years from Andromeda.” The program is narrated by Michael Dorn who played Worf on Star Trek and tracks the time line of a beam of light from our nearest galaxy, Andromeda.

While astronomy students receive extra credit for attending shows Meyers said, “Roughly only ten to fifteen percent of students make up the average crowd.”

The next show will be held on May 2. Shows start at 7 p.m. and generally last around 30 minutes followed by a question and answer period. Late arrivals are not permitted. Tickets are $4 for the general public and $2.50 for students and seniors 55 and older.

“You don’t have to be a VVC student to get the student price. ‘Student’ encompasses any student from any school or grade level,” Meyer said.

The Daily Press runs a reminder on the community page and flyers are posted outside of the planetarium and on the High Desert Astronomical Societies webpage at www.hdasonline.com For updates and more information call 245-4271 extension 2324.

Communication Center Goal Finally Realized

Guest Article By
Freddie Gold
VVC Instructor

Four years ago Communication Studies faculty members began an ambitious plan to establish a Communication Center on the VVC campus. From research to the drawing board to the design and creation of the center, the implementation of the physical center has occurred.

Located on the second floor of the Performing Arts Center the impressive space includes six “break out rooms” that can be utilized to prepare and practice oral presentations, work on group projects, video-tape speeches and develop individual assignments.

The Communication Center at VVC will emphasize opportunities for students to develop communication skills that go beyond classroom instruction by creating an environment in which to expand proficient communicating abilities in their academic, professional and personal lives. The center will assist in minimizing communication anxiety in a non-threatening learning environment and will enhance instruction by offering students independent and guided activities emphasizing communication concepts and skills. It will further offer individual and small group instruction stressing experiential learning on a wider range of communication issues.

The Communication Studies Department plans to have Speech videos, journals, professional speakers, conferences and other resources highlighting careers in a variety of communication fields.

The center is equipped with computers, video cameras and monitors to record and watch presentation rehearsals. Text books, communication journals and the ability to conduct online research enables the potential for greater success in classes and the ability to utilize those skills in the workplace or organizations outside of the academic setting.

Communication Studies faculty have already begun taking their students to the Center this semester to become familiar with using the Accu-track machine, working on group projects and preparing PowerPoint presentations and web designs collaboratively. This summer, two or more students will be trained to become facilitators who will work along side a faculty Center Director to assist students outside of classroom instruction time. Many Communication Studies classes will include a required center usage component by the fall 2008 semester.

For more information, contact Communication Studies/Theatre Arts Chairperson Jackie Augustine at extension 2722.

MUN continued from Page 1 (disarmament), G.A. Second (economic and financial), and G.A. Third (social and humanitarian). The remaining three committees are the Committee on the Status of Women, IAEA and the Arab Islamic conference.

Participants are graded by the MUN conference officials on how well they represent their country using five criteria: staying in character, leadership, knowledge, public speaking and diplomacy. To receive an "outstanding" designation, the students must be in the top 3 percent on all their committees.

On Monday, March 31, VVC MUN members attended a special presentation on campus by Elman Abdullayev, Counsel for Political and Economic Affairs, from the Azerbaijan Consulate-General office in Los Angeles. Mr. Abdullayev spoke about the recent history of Azerbaijan beginning with its independence from Russia in 1991.
VVC Faces Off Against Mavericks

Story By
Zac Varela
Co-Sports Editor

The April 2 exhibition game between Victor Valley College and the High Desert Mavericks baseball team was full of fun and enjoyment for fans and players.

There was a good turnout for the Mavericks first home game of the year. The Mavs gained control early and never looked back as they won 12-5.

The Rams played eagerly and with something to prove as they matched the Mavs in hits with 11 and made a ninth inning comeback, scoring 4 of their runs.

“We wanted to have fun today. I think we accomplished that, 11 hits and no errors this game. This was more of a practice for us,” VVC Head coach Robert Smith said following the game.

The Rams fell behind early when the Mavs went up 7-0 in the first inning. VVC scored its first run in the fifth inning and was held scoreless until the ninth. The Mavs added a run each in the second and third innings, two more in the fifth and another in the sixth.

Blane Lloyd had a good at bat, getting walked, hitting a single and a double. Luke Mullinax made some nice defensive plays behind the plate.

Alan Brace struck-out two Mavs players and went 3-5 on the day.

“The pitching was real good. That was definitely the biggest difference,” Alan Brace said after the game. “The Mavs threw so much harder and had a lot more control on the ball,” said Luke Mullinax.

This marks the second year in row VVC has played the High Desert Mavericks, coming up short in both games.

“They are professionals and whenever you get an opportunity to compete at that level you want to take it,” Smith said, “We can compete with anybody; we just have to be ready to play everyday.”

The Rams-versus-Mavericks games have been held as fundraisers for the Rams. Smith said the team is always in need of equipment. Last year the game brought in about $4,400 and this year about $1 thousand less was made.

Women’s Softball Gains a Win

Story By
Aaron Banuelos
RamPage Reporter

On Friday April 11 at 3 p.m. the Victor Valley College softball team won in a home game against Rio Hondo College that ended with the score 12-11.

Rio Hondo scored the first run in the top of the second inning, leaving the Lady Rams trailing 0-1. After a quick three-and-out the Rams had an opportunity to catch up on the bottom of the third.

Alex Griffin and Anita Espinoza had two RBI’s each, helping VVC to take the lead. The bases were loaded for the entire third inning which increased the pressure and resulted in eight runs scored.

Rio Hondo began to set the stage for a comeback scoring two runs in the fourth inning. The Rams answered back with three base hits and shortly after a RBI from Carolina Olivarez.

The score was 3-10 at the bottom of the fourth, giving VVC the big lead.

Rams’ pitcher Kristen Jernigan gave up three walks loading up the bases in the fifth inning.

Rio Hondo took advantage by scoring four runs and cutting the lead in half. The momentum was on Rio Hondo’s side moving into the sixth inning as they scored three more runs, making the score 10-10.

VVC had another RBI in the bottom of the sixth, helping to take the lead back. It all came down to the final inning, and Rio Hondo tied the game with one run against the Rams tight defense.

The Rams knew they had to score one more run to win. With a runner at third base, Jenifer Shaw hit a RBI helping VVC to take the much deserved win.

After the game Assistant Coach Jep Boonyadit said he was proud of his players’ win, but he was upset with some of the pitching calls. Alex Griffin had a great game, hitting three-for-four with four RBI’s.

Men’s Tennis Suffers Defeat

Story By
Darryl Richie
Co-Sports Editor

On March 27 the Victor Valley College Men’s Tennis Team played against Southwestern College and lost 8-1 in a home game.

The Rams’ overall record is 1-10 but they are ready for the Foothill Conference Tournament to play singles and doubles.

Head coach Ryan Cox said, “The team is doing okay, we are playing with four and five guys when we are supposed to have six. We’ve been forfeiting games. The new players are learning and making progress.”

VVC has been struggling all season but they are determined to turn things around when it’s time to play in the Foothill Conference Tournament.

Donnie Wisks said, “We have to keep hitting tough, practicing more and keep hitting harder. We have to give it all we got; we will have a better team next year.”

“They have to be more consistent. They keep losing a lot of matches beating themselves,” Cox said. “We are in a tough conference with top level skill play and we have the two top teams in California, Mt. San Jacinto and Grossmont College. We have to be more aggressive.”

The Rams have four more regular season games left before entering conference matches.

Wisks said, “We have a good team, we all tried our hardest, we did the best we could; it was a tough season.

VVC faced off against San Diego Mesa College on April 1 in an away game at San Diego.

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“They are professionals and whenever you get an opportunity to compete at that level you want to take it,” Smith said, “We can compete with anybody; we just have to be ready to play everyday.”

The Rams-versus-Mavericks games have been held as fundraisers for the Rams. Smith said the team is always in need of equipment. Last year the game brought in about $4,400 and this year about $1 thousand less was made.

On Friday April 11 at 3 p.m. the Victor Valley College softball team won in a home game against Rio Hondo College that ended with the score 12-11.

Rio Hondo scored the first run in the top of the second inning, leaving the Lady Rams trailing 0-1. After a quick three-and-out the Rams had an opportunity to catch up on the bottom of the third.

Alex Griffin and Anita Espinoza had two RBI’s each, helping VVC to take the lead. The bases were loaded for the entire third inning which increased the pressure and resulted in eight runs scored.

Rio Hondo began to set the stage for a comeback scoring two runs in the fourth inning. The Rams answered back with three base hits and shortly after a RBI from Carolina Olivarez.

The score was 3-10 at the bottom of the fourth, giving VVC the big lead.

Rams’ pitcher Kristen Jernigan gave up three walks loading up the bases in the fifth inning.

Rio Hondo took advantage by scoring four runs and cutting the lead in half. The momentum was on Rio Hondo’s side moving into the sixth inning as they scored three more runs, making the score 10-10.

VVC had another RBI in the bottom of the sixth, helping to take the lead back. It all came down to the final inning, and Rio Hondo tied the game with one run against the Rams tight defense.

The Rams knew they had to score one more run to win. With a runner at third base, Jenifer Shaw hit a RBI helping VVC to take the much deserved win.

After the game Assistant Coach Jep Boonyadit said he was proud of his players’ win, but he was upset with some of the pitching calls. Alex Griffin had a great game, hitting three-for-four with four RBI’s.

On March 27 the Victor Valley College Men’s Tennis Team played against Southwestern College and lost 8-1 in a home game.

The Rams’ overall record is 1-10 but they are ready for the Foothill Conference Tournament to play singles and doubles.

Head coach Ryan Cox said, “The team is doing okay, we are playing with four and five guys when we are supposed to have six. We’ve been forfeiting games. The new players are learning and making progress.”

VVC has been struggling all season but they are determined to turn things around when it’s time to play in the Foothill Conference Tournament.

Donnie Wisks said, “We have to keep hitting tough, practicing more and keep hitting harder. We have to give it all we got; we will have a better team next year.”

“They have to be more consistent. They keep losing a lot of matches beating themselves,” Cox said. “We are in a tough conference with top level skill play and we have the two top teams in California, Mt. San Jacinto and Grossmont College. We have to be more aggressive.”

The Rams have four more regular season games left before entering conference matches.

Wisks said, “We have a good team, we all tried our hardest, we did the best we could; it was a tough season.

VVC faced off against San Diego Mesa College on April 1 in an away game at San Diego.
Circus Vargas Entertains High Desert

Story By
Jennifer Watson
RamPage Reporter

On March 24 through 31, Circus Vargas performed their annual show in Apple Valley.

On tour since the 1960's, Circus Vargas has impacted children and adults from all walks of life, as imagined by its founder Clifford E. Vargas. Traveling up and down California, Circus Vargas continues to live up to its reputation, and this year was no different.

It was easy to see why the ringmaster said "May all your days be circus days." In the pre-show, children were given the opportunity to perform for their parents with the help of circus performers. Children hula-hooped, juggled and balanced a feather.

Immediately following, "Amazing Race" contestant and circus performer Jon Weiss balanced objects on his chin, like a table and a ladder.

This was also the time when owner Kaya Quiroga gave a generous donation to the Assistance League of Victor Valley.

The first of several performances was the Esquedas, a classic juggling ensemble with a modern twist. Instead of the classic ball, they used bowling pins, giant yo-yo's, and rings to put on a show. Following was one of the several interlude performances from the Torreblanca family, a group of clowns representing another classic yet modern version of the circus.

Afterwards came performances with the Marinellis, Ted McRea, the Lira, another performance by the Torreblanca family and an equestrian performance by Nelsom Quiroga.

A fifteen minute intermission was given so circus goers could take a break from all the excitement. During the intermission children were able to take pictures with an albino python and the equestrian performing horse.

After the intermission the performances continued with the Flying Tabres, the Torreblanca family, Francisco Mendez, the Espana Duo and many more until the final performance of the SkyRiders and their fantastic speed.

After the show children were able to meet and get autographs from their favorite performers.

This made the perfect ending at Circus Vargas.

Cinco De Mayo Event to Offer Fun, Music and Food

Story By
Heather McBride
RamPage Reporter

On Saturday May 3, there is going to be a Cinco De Mayo celebration at Victor Valley College by the lake from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. There are going to be live bands, local retailers, health insurance information and food. The event is open to the community and people of all ages are encouraged to attend. The cost is a $1 donation which will go directly to VVC’s scholarship fund according to Associated Student Body Vice President Christina Zambrano.

The event is sponsored by Southwest Gas, Desert Community Bank, Valley HI Toyota, Nissan, The High Desert Heart Institute, ICR, Care More and PFF Bank and Trust. The food is sponsored by Cemex Cement Company, and the live music is sponsored and provided by TXI Riverside Cement.

This year’s event is going to be different than last year’s in that they have added a health fair element, a booth dedicated to health care, and Desert Valley Medical Group will be there to give people information about getting health insurance.

The bands that are going to be playing include: Mariachi Aguila Real, Flamingo, Flores Del Desierto (Folklorico), Ballet Folklorico Los Serranos, Heart of Soul, Carlos Rosas y su Alianza, Music Formula and Latin Express. They have a music-filled day planned with two stages, the TXI Riverside Cement Stage and The Heritage Victor Valley Medical Group stage. The Christian radio station Almavision is also going to be there with its own stage and entertainment.

There are going to be over 80 different vendors including Home Depot at the event. There will be a Kiddie Corner sponsored by Home Depot for the children to play in. There will also be a Spongebob booth specifically for the young children. This will allow children to play and have a good time. ASB will also host two bounce houses for the kids to bounce in. There will be a Dora The Explorer one for the younger kids and a Spongebob Squarepants bounce house for the older kids to make this an event for people of all ages.

VVC is also hosting a poster competition for schools across the high desert, from Barstow all the way to Oak Hills. It’s open to children to design a poster about Cinco De Mayo and the winners will get a prize donated by Wal-Mart. Wal-mart is also going to be donating the prize for the raffle.

Parking is free to the public, except for in front of the Student Activities Center, where a section will be closed off for the production of Thoroughly Modern Millie that will be going on that night.
Production of “Guys” Impresses This Doll

Review By
Carrie Smart
Editor-in-Chief

Luck was a lady last night as “Guys and Dolls” debuted in the newly renovated Performing Arts Center at Victor Valley College. The cast was exceptionally talented but the brightest light shown from Mariya Gavrikova who played Miss Sarah Brown. Her voice was operatic and enchanting and made even the highest notes smooth and enjoyable. Paul Riding, who played Sky Masterson, also had a wonderful and enjoyable singing voice.

My personal favorite of the evening was Miss Adelaide played by Joy Walker. Her voice, her poise and her appearance were all so similar to that of Vivian Blaine who played Adelaide in Joseph Mankiewicz’s 1955 movie production of the musical that it almost seemed like VVC had obtained Blaine as a special guest star.

Nicolas Dye did “nicely-nicely” in the role of Nicely-Nicely Johnson and was also very similar, if not so much in appearance at least in voice, to Stubby Kaye who played Nicely-Nicely in Mankiewicz’s movie.

In addition to being talented singers the actors and actresses also showed off their ability to maintain strong New York accents throughout the play; kudos to director Ed Heberlin for his casting choices. Kudos also to Dr. Thomas Miller the musical director, and to choreographer David Rodriguez, both made the play come to life and did an outstanding job.

Despite being a classic play that many audience members may have already seen there are still some surprises and jokes that keep the audience laughing and entertained. There’s even a couple instances of adult humor that were almost hysterically shocking, including one comment involving the kitchen that is almost easy to miss if the spectators aren’t paying attention. The “Take Back Your Mink” scene was also an eye opener.

There was absolutely nothing about this play that could be complained about. A few minor things could have been better, Adelaide could have sneezed a little more to convey more clearly that she was suffering from a cold and the chemistry between Sky Masterson and Miss Sarah Brown could have been a little more apparent, but overall the play was flawless. There were a few botched lines, a pocket watch that failed to be successfully snatched, some minor scene change difficulties, but those problems always arise on stage and whoever walked that failed to be successful and overall the play was flawless. There were a few botched lines, a pocket watch that failed to be successfully snatched, some minor scene change difficulties, but those problems always arise on the first night of production and will be ironed out as the performances continue I’m sure. They certainly weren’t flaws that would deter audiences.

The worst part of the evening had absolutely nothing to do with the performance but from the jokers in the third or fourth row who felt it necessary to whistle flirtatiously whenever a performer walked on stage and who yelled “Bless you” when somebody sneezed. I commend the performers who remained un-phased by the rude outbursts.

All-in-all this was a wonderful play and I highly recommend it. It’s a bit on the long side, running about three hours, but it is absolutely worth it. Performances will continue to be held April 24, 25 and 26 at 7:30 p.m. with a matinee performance April 27 at 2:30 p.m. Admission is $10, $7 for seniors and children under 12 and is free for ASB cardholders.

Millie Not So Modern But Still Thoroughly Entertaining

Preview and Photo By
Desiree Pena
RamPage Reporter

On May 2 at 7:30 p.m., Standing Room Only Productions will present its opening performance of Thoroughly Modern Millie. The show will be the first of six during a two week segment. Tickets will be $12 for general admission and $10 for seniors and students.

Thoroughly Modern Millie initially started out as a musical comedy in 1967. It hit the Broadway stage in 2002 and has gained fans of every age, race and gender.

The play revolves around Millie, a small town girl headed to the big city in search of a far more glamorous life in the 1920's. She plans to find a rich husband and live off his wealth. She finds love on the way and hits a few roadblocks which lead her to realize that true happiness does not come from money.

When asked why this specific play was chosen Karla J. Franko, the choreographer and director of Thoroughly Modern Millie, said that the level of cultural literacy must be raised. Franko said, “Thoroughly Modern Millie is traditional classical theatre, it’s all about the music.”

“This is my dream role,” says Chelsea Franko, who stars as Millie. Her booming voice and passion for the character are sure to lure the audience in and relate to the character of Millie.

Chelsea Franko, along with Katrina Gaylord who plays Muzzy, and the rest of the cast are sure to give an outstanding performance. The audience can expect high energy dancing, tap dancing, a villain, a heroine, songs in different languages, fun costumes and an overall entertaining time.

On May 4 senior citizens will be able to attend the show free of charge as a means of honoring seniors and on the closing Sunday, May 11, mothers will get in free in celebration of Mother’s Day. For further ticket information call 245-4271, extension 849.
GENERAL INFORMATION
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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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To discuss display advertising options or to purchase any form of advertisement, call Assistant Director of Auxiliary Services Deanna Murphy at 760-245-4271 extension 2707.

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Faculty of the Year and Staff of the Year!

In recognition of their devotion to education and student success, the ASB Council would like you, the students, to choose a VVC Faculty and Staff Member who has made a difference in your life.

To nominate an individual, send an email to Christina Zambrano czasbvp@yahoo.com with the following information:

- Your Name
- Nominee’s Name
- Nominee’s Title/Position
- Brief Reason for Nomination

Nominations must be received by 5 p.m., Friday, May 2nd. Winners will be honored at the 1st Annual Students’ Choice Awards Luncheon on May 9th.

Nominees must be VVC employees, Full-Time or Part-Time. (Must be a student to vote)