Solar Power Plant to Save Money For College

Expected Savings to Exceed $800,000 Annually

Story and Photo by
Roderick Gray
Managing Editor

Funds generated from the community-approved Bond Measure JJ the Victor Valley Community College District have invested $4.6 million to install a one megawatt solar power plant.

Construction on the plant began on March 1 and is set to conclude by May 25. Measure JJ was the $297.5 million bond initiative that passed in November 2008 that would allow the college to build two satellite campuses in the Victor Valley and has also provide the means for up grades to the main campus.

According to VVC Director of Facilities Construction Steve Garcia, the college issued a request for proposal on the project and the company SolFocus, Inc. was chosen.

“This project is the latest step VVC has taken to remove itself from the dependency of the statewide electrical grid. Two years ago we completed a $7 million energy upgrade on the entire campus infrastructure. These well-thought-out projects will help reduce campus utility costs and help lower our overall carbon footprint,” Garcia said.

The solar plant was installed on six acres of the lower campus adjacent to the Maintenance and Operations yard and this is the first project of its kind anywhere in the world.

“This campus is amazing with its size and resource development potential,” said SolFocus Project Manager Mitch Bowman.

The panels are weather-tested to withstand damage against hail storms, and during high winds they will automatically adjust to the upright position. These solar panels were prefabricated off site and shipped to the prepped project area for installation.

“We didn’t have to do anything but run the electrical and set the transformers,” said Project Superintendent John E. McAtte.

The solar power plant is a project that will provide VVC the opportunity to develop a certificate curriculum program to allow students to be trained in the specified fields of solar engineering, installation and maintenance.

There will be a formal walkthrough and dedication of the facility on May 25 at 10am and the Keynote speaker will be Lt Governor Abel Maldonado.

The project will consist of 122 solar platforms, producing enough electricity to provide 650 homes’ worth of electricity and will take care of 1/3 of the campus power demand.

The savings for the first five years will be more than $800,000 a year. Calculated to a projected total of approximately $22 million over 25 years, the purchase price will include full maintenance from the SolFocus company for 10 years.

VVC Production of Little Women a Hit

Story and Photo by
Lili Berni
Reporter

The critically acclaimed "Little Women" is a musical directed by Ed Heaberlin that has been capturing the hearts of Victor Valley College’s students and faculty alike. It was inspired by Louisa May Alcott’s novel, “Little Women,” written in 1869. In 2005, Allan Knee, Mindi Dickstein and Jason Howland first premiered their musical adaptation at the Virginia Theatre on Broadway in New York City.

The colorful vignettes of the four March sisters and their beloved mother Marmee give this story a plethora of affectionate moments that warm the heart and lift the spirit. The popular story has proven its worth in adaptations of film, play, animation and opera.

Continued in Little on Page 2
**Summer Counseling Appointments Limited**

**Story by**
Racheal Rickman
**Reporter**

Victor Valley College counselors believe that working together for student success is important, but due to the growing number of students and the smaller staff during the summer months, counseling services are being limited to only select students.

For the summer term only, new and returning students are being offered appointments with counselors, and even those are hard to get.

Students who do not fall into this category are still able to receive counseling services; however, the appointments must be made by the end of May 2010.

“I was able to get to see a counselor, and that was pretty easy. It took me about a week, but I can see how this could affect many other students,” said student Corey McDaniel on his experience with the counseling office.

“Students should plan ahead and not wait until the end of the semester; the middle of the semester is a good time for all other students to receive counseling services, several semesters are put on the Ed plan at this time,” said Counselor Diane Wollan.

An Ed plan is a plan that the student and counselor come up with together that includes a list of classes that the student plans to take.

So far this semester, 1,928 students have been seen by the 9 full-time general counselors that are on campus. Counselors are busy and they are not limited to meeting with students within the office. Many of the college counselors’ tasks include teaching guidance classes, participating in campus committees and offering new student orientations and workshops for students.

“If counseling services weren’t available it would be much more difficult to receive professional advice. I would feel more uneasy about my plans without some direction from a counselor,” said first time college student Taylor Joris. Joris is just one student of many, who due to the fact of not being a new or returning student, will not be receiving counseling services this upcoming term.

If students need to get in to see a counselor before the end of May, they can come into the counseling office located in building 55 on Monday mornings and book an appointment for the following week. Counselors can be reached at 760 245-4271 extension 2296 or 2531.

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**Little from Page 1**

Here at VVC, however, the story has been retold masterfully in its musical form.

The show starts by introducing the passionate and headstrong Jo March, played by Kara Woodward. We see her in New York City in the midst of imminent success, but then the play goes back in time to her attic in Massachusetts with her three sisters and mother. The affection portrayed between the sisters and their mother offer such genuine moments that the audience can’t help but fall in love with their tight-knit family.

Diane Wollan particularly shined in her character work as a dedicated and honorable mother to her four colorfully charming daughters.

“I think the cast is great and it’s a lot of fun; it has almost a Disney feel to it,” said VVC student Brandon Bogle.

The singing in the play was most impressive. In “Our Finest Dreams,” the harmony among the four girls was on par with what one could expect from an actual Broadway performance. Also, to conclude the first act was a jaw dropping performance of the song “Astonishing,” which can only be described as just that.

“They’re all really good sponges and take direction very well. I’m so thankful to have worked with a wonderful group of people,” said vocal director Patty Yancey.

As the musical develops, we are introduced to more characters, but frankly could have done without such a large cast. Although it adds an ample amount of energy to the number “The Weekly Volcano Press,” I felt it was a bit much for something that could have easily been produced with a cast of fifteen.

Also, although the performance by Professor Bhaer, played by Matt Thomas, was enjoyable, I felt that we weren’t given enough of him, and so could hardly be empathetic to his love for Jo.

Despite such minor nuances, the play was truly a spectacle and the VVC Theatre Department should be very proud of yet another successful production. I’d highly recommend anyone come and enjoy this musical, however its final performance took place on Sunday May 16, 2010 and I can only hope those of you reading got the chance to see it.

“There’s some great new talent at VVC and I can’t wait for the next show,” said former VVC student Patrick McElree.
A former student at Victor Valley College, Paul Flores, passed away May 1, 2010 at Loma Linda University. Paul was involved in an accident while working on his car, leading to his death. Flores was a resident of Apple Valley and had been so for 16 years. He was born on March 25, 1988, and was 22 years old when he died.

Paul’s funeral was May 10 at Our Lady of the Desert in Apple Valley, followed by his burial at Sunset Hills Memorial Park also in Apple Valley.

Paul will be missed. On tributes.com there are several entries from friends and family who continually mention how he was always in a good mood and how he was such a good guy. Flores will definitely be remembered and has made a positive influence on the world.

His family owns the restaurant Chevo’s in Apple Valley. Paul attended Apple Valley High School where he played baseball and graduated in 2006. He was attending mechanic school at UTI when he passed away.

Paul is survived by his son Lukha Flores, girlfriend Mirrisha Jacobo, his father Eusebio Flores, his mother Mariana Flores, brother Victor Flores, sister Mayra Flores, and sister Joanna Flores, all from Apple Valley.

Fishing Contest Yields the Best Catches

There was plenty of fish in the lake on Victor Valley College’s campus on Saturday, May 8 at the fishing contest during Tech-X, the contest was hosted by ASB. This was just one event among the others provided that day. It was the first time a fishing contest was introduced at Tech-X. There was no cost to enter and no specific age; it was a come-one, come-all event. The fishing lines were cast and the fish were biting.

There was a $25 prize given to the winner of each category: cutest fish, best-looking fisherman, longest fish and smallest fish, and there were about 53 competitors. One competitor, Becky Shreve, was one of the few women fishermen that entered the contest.

“I like to fish. I like the sport,” Shreve said. She had already caught five or six fish.

So why a fishing contest? “Because it’s fun; fishing is natural,” Nord Embroden, the event manager said.

“We are just taking advantage of our environment. We’re just providing another enjoyable activity,” said Robert A. Sewell, the ASB student advisor.

“It’s to bring the community onto the campus and let them know about our programs,” said Embroden. ASB Activities Senator Music Vernola helped out in the day’s festivities. She agreed with Embroden. “Our goal is to get people involved and not have so much competition,” Vernola said.

Job Fair Highlights Employment Opportunities for Students

The event began 9. pm and lasted until 1. pm VVC students and the general public attended.

“We work with the college and they do a great job as always,” said Barbara Beehler San Bernardino County Workforce Development specialist. “It takes a lot of patience and team work to put together events like this one,” said Beehler.

Registration forms, resumes and job applications were accepted.

“My whole focus is to find people jobs by networking with the college and businesses to find out what their needs are,” Goodwill Placement Service Representative Monique Allen said.

“ Anything that that makes the hiring process easier for the employer I do it," said Allen.

Representatives from the Department of Justice Federal Bureau of Prisons collected more than three pages of contact information from prospective recruits.

“This was a very productive job fair for us, because it was well attended and the pace of people coming in was steady and that’s good for us,” Federal Case Manager Kenneth R. Lewis said.

VVC student Justin Nixon attended the event this year and last year. He says the event was even better this year.

The County of San Bernardino Department of Workforce Development will host another job resource fair at Maverick Stadium on June 17 from 10. am to 1. pm.
Standing Room Only’s production of Godspell Jr., at the High Desert Center for the Arts has been showing its spectacular side for the past few weeks.

Godspell is based on the Gospel of St. Matthew that shows and tells the life story of Jesus Christ. Godspell was created in the 70’s by Stephen Schwartz, and has been one of the most accomplished musicals to open off-Broadway. The musical was soon later adapted into the big screen.

Director Karla Franko’s cast of talented triple threats has been able to capture audiences, especially the younger ones by giving them something better than a night at the movies. This family-friendly musical cannot be seen as something religious and unmemorable; instead, it should be seen as a musical with fun life lessons, which can be taught to young children, and even adults.

The musical numbers can be enjoyable and pleasant at times. The only problem that was seen in some numbers was on deciding to keep the microphones, or just plainly getting rid of them. Since the theater was small, Franko should have flirted with the idea of not using microphones. Some of the performers would out sing their microphones, while others would barely even make noise. But in the end, some numbers where remembered more than others, because the performer’s love for music would show through their vocals.

The diversity of the cast was refreshing. In many other musicals the cast members are usually made up of one age group, but not Godspell Jr. Watching the little kids show their love for art, and putting some of their own personality into the musical, gave it a little more an edge. Maybe the addition of the children made it suitable for the younger audience.

This musical lacked color in the wardrobe department because all I could see was the red costumes that virtually every performer wore. The set was decorated perfectly and it gave me the sense of being on some street in downtown L.A. It was colorful, and full of life, something the costumes lacked. For a musical to be catchy and upbeat, one would think the costumes would add even more to what it already was, but instead all we saw was red.

In the end this version of Godspell was pleasant and very pleasing and would give the performance a rating of 3 out of 5. I would go again just to take all my little cousins, and give them a good time at something a little bit more enjoyable. Although it is a shame this musical closed it’s final curtain on May 8, 2010, it would have been nice for it to be opened for a couple more nights so that audiences could be captured in the spell.

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Democracy in Action at ASB Elections

Story and Photo by
Adreana Young
Reporter

The Associated Student Body (ASB) held its annual elections on Tuesday, May 11 and Wednesday, May 12. There were three voting booths around the campus: one in the Student Activities Center, one in the Gymnasium and another in the Science building.

This year there were 16 positions up for election.

“There were about a dozen people running for office,” said Robert Sewell, the ASB adviser. However, if all the positions are not filled from the general election, then a notice will be put out for 10 days allowing students to apply for the open positions.

This year, the ASB council is hoping to add two more positions to the council if voted upon by the students in the general election.

One of the positions pending is the Student Services Senator. This position would help deal with the financial aid students receive.

“The students would be better served to have a Student Services Senator,” said Sewell.

Even though the ASB is looking to better serve and represent the Victor Valley College student body, many students don’t seem too interested in the ASB.

“I would say an average of 250 to 300 students vote in each election,” said Deanna Murphy, Assistant Director, Auxiliary Services.

“It doesn’t really impact me enough to care,” said VVC student Robert Lazak. “The events that matter aren’t being advertised,” said Lazak.

“It’s an awareness issue. Campaigning is a challenge,” said Sewell.

The students running are not allowed to campaign in the classroom because of this guideline presented in the ASB constitution; it’s hard for them to get their messages out.

“We need to provide activities geared to student interest. We need to get our feelers out there,” said Matthew Toner, who is running for the position of Activities Senator.

A goal of this year’s election is that the possible addition of two new positions and other changes to the ASB constitution will help represent the students better.

“ASB’s goal is to inform and represent,” said Toner “We have a lot of intelligent and experienced people running in this election.”

The ASB encourages voting and participation in events around the campus.

“It’s important for students to vote because you need school spirit and pride,” said Toner. “School spirit starts with knowing what’s going on.”

“The elections affect the students because those that are elected become leaders and the voice of the students to the different groups on campus, the faculty, the administration, the state and the nation,” said Murphy.

“(ASB has) a lot of power in the school. It’s just that no one knows they do,” said Lazak.

Students vote for their candidates of choice at the voting table on election day.

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CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY
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On Saturday, May 8, the Victor Valley College was covered with various activities. There was a car show, a fishing contest, fire academy demos, world of robotics and self defense. The Tech-X and ASB were hosting several events on the campus. ASB held a chalk drawing contest and the winner received a prize of $100.

The chalk drawing contest was held outside the Student Activities Center and the event had free water, hot dogs, hamburgers, and cookies. All the food was free for ASB cardholders, it’s just one of the perks of having an ASB card.

“ASB sponsored the food and the chalk,” said ASB member Music Vernola. There weren’t too many competitors competing for the cash, but a few happy children drew a simple drawing of a robot, and a gigantic sun on a wall. This drawing won second place. One of the illustrations was a nitrogen bond atom.

“Nitrogen makes a big impact, it helps you breathe” said Sarah Estabrook one of the competitors who helped draw the nitrogen atom. Estabrook is an engineer major and is fascinated with chemistry and science in general. The idea of the nitrogen atom was to display that science and art have a connection.

Another competitor drew a unique ghost-like depiction that represented a mythological creature that illustrated an emotion. The emotion she wanted to illustrate was how we all have that intuitive gut feeling. In other words, she drew the voice that’s inside your head.

“I wanted to draw a mythological creature that would make sense in a logical way. This is the mythological creature that’s in your gut,” said Abbey Warren. Warren is an art student and plans to transfer to Cal State San Bernardino.

“I didn’t even know it was a competition. I just drew something,” said competitor Terry Langel said, “I didn’t even know it was a competition. I just drew something.” The winner of the $100 prize was Katie Pesch. Pesch drew a giant realistic waterfall, tree and flowers with the assistance of two friends.
Electricity is a part of every structure. There’s a big future in an electrical construction technology degree,” said Randolph. Embroden, Randolph and McCullough were clearly intent on showing the students that VVC is full of opportunity and not just a “hole in the ground,” as McCullough said.

Students themselves generally said the event was fun, simple and informative. Compared to previous years, the number of students who attended this year doubled, as well as the number of activities and demonstrations provided by the event.

“People just think we’re a hole in the ground. People don’t know about us,” said McCullough. McCullough was eager to talk to students about the different types of programs and opportunities VVC has to offer.

“Education is key.”

Further down from McCullough, was VVC instructor Curtis C. Randolph, with an electric outlet demonstration. While students ate free snow cones provided by the Construction building volunteers, Randolph emphasized the importance of a career in electricity.

“Electricity is a part of every structure. There’s a big future in an electrical construction technology degree,” said Randolph.

Embroden, Randolph and McCullough were clearly intent on showing the students that VVC is full of opportunity and not just a “hole in the ground,” as McCullough said.

Students themselves generally said the event was fun, simple and informative. Compared to previous years, the number of students who attended this year doubled, as well as the number of activities and demonstrations provided by the event.
Eight staff and faculty members received awards last week for their dedication to the school and the students. On Tuesday May 4, 2010, Victor Valley College ASB held its fourth annual Student Choice Awards.

The ceremony was held within Teacher Appreciation Week and on Nation Teacher’s Day. The event was also a part of Rams Week, which lasted until Saturday May 8.

The event was held in the second floor of the Student Activities Center with more than 60 faculty members in attendance. The faculty and staff were seated in a beautifully designed conference room with elegant place settings for each faculty member.

Before awards were handed out, the attendees were treated to a three-course meal brought to them by VVC Restaurant Management. The meal started off with an appetizer salad, and then it moved on to the entree of chicken and pasta then finally an elegantly decorated dessert.

Robert Sewell, ASB Advisor, gave a speech about how the teachers nominated all made a difference in the student’s lives.

“What you provided them was priceless,” Sewell said of the faculty’s contributions to the students’ education.

More than 200 students voted in this year’s awards ceremony. There were many nominations, but only eight faculty members received top honors and a trophy to go along with it. Among award winners were Patty Golder, Tim Adell, Theresa Mirci-Smith, Henry Ochoa, David Gibbs, Deanna Murphy, Paul Mount and Pamela Mackay.

“I would have never expected this. I’m thrilled to death,” Mount said about his award.

“It was good to see two of my teachers win awards because they helped me so much in class,” student Chris Dustin said.
Heard Around the Lake

“Did you participate in the ASB elections and how do you feel about the outcome?”

“No. I think that the announcements could have been more verbally expressed.” - Ben Stewart

“Yes and I’m really happy with the outcome.” - Chealsea Franko

“Yes, I participated however, I felt like some of the ASB candidates weren’t on a more personal level with the students.” - Matt Smith

“It’s always the candidates every year. Same ideas and so far no change.” - Gilbert Aldara

“It’s good to know that students have been more active this year compared to the previous terms.” - Trey Meukow

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The RamPage is a newspaper published as an educational exercise and First Amendment Public Forum by students at Victor Valley College in Victorville, Calif. Issues come out approximately twice a month in the two full-length semesters, generally each February, March, April, May, September, October, November and December, for a total of 14 issues each calendar year.

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@gmail.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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