Victor Valley College faces budget cuts to meet the sixth recommendation made by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) — the college must have a long-term fiscal plan. This is one of three remaining recommendations that must be fulfilled before VVC will be removed from accreditation probation. While the second follow-up report from ACCJC states that a plan to correct the long-term deficit has not been implemented, VVC has made a number of changes to its budget. The college is dodging future costs with alternative energy projects to balance the budget. A solar covered parking project remains in the planning stages. Last year the main campus solar field saved the college nearly $400,000. Though there are other factors, a significant number of core classes were cut from the spring 2013 semester as well. Among the cuts were basic math and elementary algebra classes. For those that need them it could mean another semester or more of school before they receive their degree. The number of instructors at VVC dwindles as well. There is currently no new hiring to replace staff that have resigned or retired. Proposition 30 passed the general election in Nov. The increased state tax revenue allowed the college to avoid the budgetary cuts that waited for all California community colleges mid-year. VVC would have lost three million dollars. State funding is distributed to colleges based on their full time equivalent student enrollment. VVC set a goal of 9,300 such students for the current year, which would qualify the college as mid-sized. This would have entitled VVC to an additional million dollars in funding. According to Peter Allan, Interim Executive Vice President of Instruction and Student Services, the college fell about 200 students short this spring. It is expected this will be made up with the addition of more eight week classes. VVC administration has requested that the Finance, Budget and Planning Committee have the new structural budget by July 1, 2013. The new deadline to correct the structural budget, given by ACCJC, is Oct. 15, 2013.

The Victor Valley College Foundation has started a Campaign for Classes to help bring more core classes to the 2013 - 2014 academic calendar. The Foundation’s goal is to raise $250,000 from May 1 to June 7, which will create 50 classes and serve 1,500 students. With the recent down turn in the economy, California has chosen to balance the loss of revenue with cuts in various areas, particularly in education. VVC’s budget has been substantially reduced by the state which provides the majority of class funding to students. The state funds approximately 9,000 full time students, however VVC serves anywhere from 12,000 to 15,000 students. “Our thought is that we don’t have to be a victim. We have the opportunity to do something about that and that’s how the Campaign for Classes started,” said Executive Director for the VVC Foundation Ginger Ontiveros. Several corporate sponsors have stepped forward to say they will sponsor a class. One of which is Valley Hi Auto Group which will be partnering with the VVC Foundation to park a vehicle in front of the Student Activities Center as a form of...
Summer term: left out in the cold?

By Kristen Martin
Features Editor

The class schedule for the summer session is now available online for students wanting to enroll. Victor Valley College is offering 22 subjects for a total of 50 classes.

The newly established schedule limits the classes, especially academic courses such as math, English, and science. Students hoping to get ahead this summer are going to be limited in class selection.

“Students need a variety of classes,” said Interim Executive Vice-President, Peter Allan. “We try to accommodate everybody. The schedule was limited to accommodate 300 full-time equivalent students. We had to make some tough decisions, as that was less than half of last year’s schedule.”

The lack of classes may be a hardship for students; however, according to Allan, 60 sections may be added. The number of classes offered is dependent on the funding available to VVC and if the foundation raises the funding cap.

“At the time the schedule was created…650 full-time equivalent students were not funded by apportionment but were being funded out of VVC’s general fund,” explained Allan. “A minimum schedule was created with a view to providing for transfer students primarily using a rubric developed by the instruction office.”

Students on campus scramble to get into classes. Some students are lucky to get one class for the semester while others, who have priority registration, are able to get a full schedule.

There are also some students who can’t get classes at all and are forced to take a break from their academic progression.

“I think they need to figure out a way to offer more classes for those who may have been waitlisted in either the spring or fall term and couldn’t get in because of the overcrowding,” said VVC student Jennifer Kiever. “My son and his girlfriend are having a hard time getting classes because of this problem. She may be able to get her class this summer but they are not offering anything for him.”

“Classes are condensed and the people that are in the classes are really there to learn,” said Kiever. Summer schedule can now be viewed on Web Advisor on the VVC website. Registration begins May 13 and continues until June 16. Registration dates are based on priority; to find out when you’re eligible to register, visit vvc.edu and click on the summer 2013 registration dates. Classes begin June 17.

Standing room only

Long lines await continuing students in counseling department

By Janice Shore
and Daniel Mariano
RamPage Reporters

Spring semester students will be unable to schedule counseling appointments this upcoming Summer semester. This is not a new construct; Victor Valley College implemented this rule about four years ago. They do this in order to give priority to the 5,000 or so incoming students. Veterans and financial aid students are also given priority next semester because of the specific paperwork they need to fill out in order to receive money to pay for school.

“We get a lot of new students in the summer and we don’t have a full staff here,” Diane Wollan department chair of counseling said.

She suggests that the best way to schedule an appointment is going through counseling section of VVC.edu. The key to getting an appointment online is to wait until midnight when all the newest appointments become available for the following week according to Wollan.

“It helps us if they (students) have some idea of what they want to do. If they don’t have any ideas we make suggestions…Its always good to interview somebody who has the career you are interested in,” Wollan said.

Scheduling an appointment through the college’s website is not the only option available. The counseling office also allows walk-ins if there is an open slot for an appointment that day. The walk-in method can be beneficial for students who come early as lines often form prior to opening. Wollan recommends bringing in all necessary paperwork and a list of questions to the meeting. Counselors are also available through Email for further questions or concerns.

Having an actual appointment is the best route, though there are other resources for students to ensure they are headed in the right direction. VVC offers a Career and Life Planning course which is geared towards helping students find an individualized career path.

Another avenue students can do is log onto assist.org which provides transfer information. The counseling and administration building also provides papers which show the general education requirements for those transferring.

“Be proactive about finding information and your persistence will pay off,” Wollan offers as her last advice.

For further information visit the www.vvc.edu website.
The Associated Student Body (ASB) attended the American Student Association of Community Colleges Conference (ASACC) in Washington D.C to discuss the rights for students pertaining to the Federal Pell Grants, The Perkins Grant and the GI-Bill from March 16-19.

ASB’s purpose for this trip was to advocate keeping and protecting these grants, loans etc. For example, at the conference ASB sat down with Paul Cook, a Congressman representing the 8th District of California, and talked with him about their views and what they were fighting for. In response, Paul Cook released a press release speaking about the very issues ASB had just discussed with him.

The Pell Grant is usually awarded to only undergraduate students who have not earned a bachelor’s or professional degree. It is money given that does not need to be repaid. The GI-Bill is money given to veterans of the army who have been discharged honorably to help them with education and housing. The Perkins Grant is a grant created to help secondary and post-secondary students develop their career and technical skills.

At the conference, members of ASB met many influential people that paved the way for students to be able to afford to attend college. Important people such as Frank Mensel, who helped create the Pell Grant, and Susan Rice, an American diplomat and an advocate for student rights.

While there, ASB was able to present awards to people like Mensel and Rice who have impacted a change.

“Hearing other people’s concern for other students puts things in perspective, we see what we didn’t before,” said Evonne Torres Tirado, Vice President of ASB.

Tirado explains that she realized there are other opinions and different sides to the issues she was advocating for. She learned there are other problems she can address at our school. For example, Tirado came back wanting to do more community service here at Victor Valley College.

“You don’t think about yourself, you want to provide ways for other students,” said Tirado.
Financial aid: BE AWARE

By Alexandria Roland
RamPage Reporter

Students gathered together by the Performing Arts Center on March 28 for Victor Valley College’s annual Financial Aid Awareness Day. The goal of the event is to make students aware that faculty is here to help with all financial aid related questions.

“Financial Aid Awareness Day is something we look forward to, to help students,” said VVC’s Financial Aid Specialist, Robbie Richards.

FAAD had different booths with information from the Transfer Center, the Native American Student Council, and financial aid staff. The faculty also presented guest speaker, Angelica Nunez, who shared her story and gave encouragement.

Nunez works in the Family Resource Center in Victorville and attended Cerritos Community College. She grew up in poverty and became the first person in her family to attend college; she encouraged students to stand up for their beliefs.

“Being positive has positive outcomes,” said Nunez.

Aside from Nunez’s speech, there were still many comments and concerns from students on our financial aid process. Students had questions about the cutoff dates and when documents had to be submitted. There were still many comments about the financial aid process and concerns with financial aid is the aid system at VVC, and also some issues. While waiting in line to get free tacos, student Martha Dominguez said the event was helpful. Dominguez stated “[the] list of websites for jobs” provided from the faculty were beneficial to her.

In regards to the benefits, student Philip Hill said, “[without financial aid] I wouldn’t be coming to school.” Hill also said one of his concerns with financial aid is the disbursement dates, and said he thinks it should be reversed. The financial aid disbursement has been changed to getting one third of the money in the beginning of the semester and receiving the last 70% towards the end.

“The reason for that though is that students would leave with the money, which is a liability to the institution, because we won’t get you guys back until years later. We try to encourage you to save money,” said Lopez.

Lopez said to expect other changes to keep improving the financial aid process, such as a Pell Grant increase for the 2013 academic school year.

Faculty encourages students to attend Financial Aid Awareness Day every year to answer their concerns. If that isn’t enough encouragement to come, remember there might be free tacos.

Campaign from page 1

positive protest to California state budget cuts. During this time, a student, administrator or staff will occupy this vehicle at all times starting May 1 and ending June 7. The Foundation has created a “Text to Give” program that will be going community wide as a way for students to get involved. A unique code is given that charges $5 or $10 on a cell phone bill which will go towards the Campaign for Classes.

The budget cuts are extending the time for students to complete their education at VVC. Students typically take a year and a half longer to get what would otherwise be a four year degree. It’s now currently taking students five and half to six years to complete their education. At the beginning of the spring semester of 2013, there were 7,667 students on waitlist that did not get into classes.

“(Students) are now ending up on long waitlists. At VVC, twenty students are allowed on the list and potentially only five might get in to that class. So it discourages students at the same time to continue their education. We’re seeing an increase in students dropping out and that’s what we’re trying to avoid with this campaign,” said Assistant Director for the VVC Foundation Catherine Abbott.

The VVC Foundation raises money to allow the college to offer the classes that are most needed for students. VVC will determine this by the number of students who are waiting to get into specific classes such as Math, English, or other classes necessary for transfer. The money the VVC Foundation raises will be helped through subsidies by the college itself.

“[VVC] is stretching resources as far as they can and currently are teaching many students for which they are not paid. They’re really jumping on board to make sure this is successful and that the money we raise is stretched as far as it can,” said Ontiveros.

For more information on the Campaign for Classes, students can visit the ASB office in the Student Activities Center or contact the Foundation office at (760) 245-4271 ext. 2522.
By Rasheta Driver  
*RamPage Reporter*

While a majority of students at Victor Valley College know they share a campus with Excelsior Charter School, many students don’t realize the campuses also share the campus police force.

This arrangement has been in place since Excelsior was originally built downstairs on the lower VVC campus.

“We talked with Chief Knight and we’ve done it for years. We’ve been here so it just makes sense. We are on VVC Campus,” said the Excelsior Vice Principal Thomas Lasiter.

Combining the campus police was originally an agreement between the campus police and another law enforcement department. “We also cover Excelsior in addition to a two mile radius outside the campus,” said Officer Jones, a veteran officer and VVC law enforcer.

Considering that both areas are covered by the same entity, students and staff may wonder if the campuses are too intertwined with a mix of students. “I mean, yeah of course we’d like to have them for us, all alone but that’s unrealistic. If we ask them they will come to us. We have a security staff of three people. Whoever’s on duty is going to respond (but) our security doesn’t respond to them,” said Lasiter.

Eric Belton, a proctor at Excelsior and a previous student of both the Charter School and VVC, also agrees that he is satisfied with the police work done by VVC Police Station. He believes VVC police help Excelsior out as much as they can and to the best of their abilities.

When VVC students were asked if they feel the VVC police force is overworked by covering both campuses they echoed Belton’s sentiments. Eddie Shepherd, an 18 year old Kinesiology major, said he didn’t realize both campuses shared police. He believes it is possible for the police to fully patrol both campuses without being burdened because he feels neither school is very big.

Officer Jones looks at his duty realistically. He emphasizes how everything is stressful but how it’s more important to deal with a stressful situation conventionally rather than letting it make his job.

“I handle a radio call by what has occurred rather than by the person’s age,” said Jones.

All parties included in this arrangement have been making the best of this situation by stressing the importance of cooperation and cohabitation between the campuses and the students. Lasiter describes the close relationships the two campuses share as some of his students are VVC students also.

As an example, he references his colleague Eric Belton who, by the time he graduated Excelsior, also started off as a junior at VVC because of the extra classes he had taken. With the further intertwining of the campuses Lasiter hopes this will bring more opportunities to his students.

“I think it’s a good situation. It could be better; I’m hoping it gets better,” said Lasiter.

By Kelly Peterson  
*RamPage Reporter*

Placement Specialist Veronica Manriquez has been involved with linking students in the Federal Work Study program (FWS) with potential employers, both on and off campus, since April 2008. Students must have their financial aid packets completed and maintain at least a 2.0 grade point average for the semester in which they are applying. She says that in order for a student to be qualified for FWS they must be enrolled in at least 6 units, must be receiving financial aid and must have unmet financial needs according to their financial award letters.

To begin the process, a student must first go to the VVC website and click on the link for financial aid located on the left margin of the screen. Once there they click on the Federal Work-Study link. A request for a username and password will be processed. Once this is obtained the student can begin the application process.

Students can apply for as many positions as they wish but a separate application is needed for each position. Veronica says the best way to get your application noticed is to include key words from the job description in the application. If the job requires nights and weekends, be sure to mention your enthusiasm for these requirements.

Once the student submits the application it is sent to the hiring department for consideration. If the department wants to interview you the interview is set up through Veronica. Once the position is filled she will send out notices that the position is no longer available.

When asked what the benefits are for the student involved in Federal Work-Study she says, “The biggest benefit is the extra money for books. It also helps the student back into the structure of the workforce and provides necessary skills for the competition of the job Federal Work-Study is a program available to students who want to earn extra money for books, transportation or any unmet need while attending VVC search.”

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Women in history
Puente celebrates contributions made by women throughout history

By Todd Hadler
Co Sports Editor

Joselyn Tarr is an Aerospace Engineer who works at General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc. Tarr graduated from the University of Maryland with a B.S. in Aerospace Engineering. She is responsible for coming up with designs for unmanned aerial vehicles for military use.

The $50,000 to $70,000 salary she gets is equal pay for men and women in her field. Tarr is one of the many women who have more than excelled in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (S.T.E.M) field.

“There seems to be a certain stigma with engineering that it is not friendly for women but as long as you have the passion and brains, then you could do it,” said Tarr.

The Puente program hosted a Women’s History Month celebration in the Student Activities Center (SAC) on Tuesday March 26.

The four hour long event featured guest speakers from various High Desert companies and awards being given out to several female staff members.

There were three different areas in the upper level of the SAC with a different female speaker at each station. The purpose of the celebration was to bring appreciation to women.

“The importance of today is to show that women can do anything they want to,” said Susan Cruz, a full service broker and bank advisor for Desert Community Bank.

Each speaker spoke for about an hour. Cruz spoke in SAC room “A & B” at the beginning of the event. Cruz used to be in the Air Force until a man in the military taught her some tips on how to be rich. Soon after she quit the Air Force, her husband lost his job just 10 days later. Cruz offered some advice that she hoped that everyone attending the seminar would take away.

“Just imagine that everyone you come in contact with has a flashing sign on their chest that says, ‘Would you make me feel special,’” said Cruz, who also has a bachelor’s in Ministry Theology.

Afterwards, everyone attending the celebration was served lunch and took part in a group panel. All the speakers from the day had a panel discussion about their specific fields of work and women in those fields.

Eartha Johnson, a counselor for Victor Valley College and Puente Program Coordinator, asked the speakers the questions. Continuing with the individual seminars, the speakers had advice for the students that attended.

“Don’t go into a line of work for the money, do it for the passion,” said Dr. Wanda Wilburn, who works with the Genesis OB/GYN Medical Group.

When the panel discussion ended, Joseph Morris, Director of Nursing and Allied Health, and Rolando Regino, the Dean of S.T.E.M., handed out certificates and gifts to the speakers as well as some of the female faculty on campus.

Healing in the wake of tragedy

By Briana Buchanan
RamPage Reporter

About four months ago, a student tragically took his own life on campus just outside of the Student Activities Center.

Since then some students and faculty have continued to come up with ways to help students learn from this unfortunate event that has impacted the Victor Valley College campus in a number of ways.

Eartha Johnson, Puente program Coordinator and VVC Counselor, brought the father of the student who committed suicide to her Puente counseling class to speak to her students. Max Alarid’s speeches covered communication between parents and children and self-esteem.

Frankie Robles, a student in Mrs. Johnson’s class, admired Alarid’s composure and dedication while talking to the students.

“I have a cousin who committed suicide when I was younger and the way he coped with it completely differed from the way I coped with it. I completely broke down but he was strong enough to come in and talk with us,” Robles said.

Students described the talk as a little emotional but something they could take to heart.

“I have a little brother who’s five and I take care of him. I took the lesson to him and I told my brother, you deserve to be here,” said Civil Hernandez, another student present during the counseling class.

Some students remain unaware that VVC has an uAlert program which sends text messages to students in emergency situations. Currently, the emergency text sign-up is a small notice on the bottom of the school website. Students who like counseling or additional support are advised to call (800) 273-8255 or visit www.SuicidePreventionLifeline.org.

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Warm oven, warm heart

By Daniel Mariano
Online/Social Media Editor

If you drive no more than a quarter mile east of Apple Valley High School, you’ll miss Jeanie Dupuis’ bakery, 3D’s (Dedication, Determination & Discipline) Baking4Charities on the left hand side.

The small, white single story establishment is home to more than just pastries and baked goods. It’s where hardships and trials have come and gone and dreams are beginning to unfold.

With her talent for all things baked Dupuis began selling her baked goods at local business’, going from door to door. Her reputation and name grew as she began to branch out. The quality of Dupuis’ baking isn’t what made her so well known and loved among the local High Desert community; it was Dupuis’ passion and dedication for charity.

“Baking is one thing, but baking and having the ability to help others, giving and contributing to those in need... That’s just a whole other world. There’s no greater feeling than knowing that you’ve blessed someone in need.” said Dupuis.

The Apple Valley bakery’s story begins in the winter of 2012; Dupuis’ own story on the other hand starts to unfold several years earlier in Tennessee.

Dupuis, three weeks after an extensive stay in a local Tennessee hospital for kidney surgery, decided to venture into entrepreneurship and open her own bakery. That small business lasted for around six months until she was unwillingly forced to sell her business. She then moved back home to Southern California. Dupuis found a place to rest her head at her eldest son’s home.

Dupuis gives more than just support to families in need; she gives it her all. In one of her most recent fundraisers she raffled off one of her cakes, which generated almost $400.00 for charity.

The revenue from the raffle isn’t all that is contributed to the shop vibe; yet, Dupuis runs the entire operation entirely on her own.

She went on to tell her story of self-mental defeat, the absence of moral support and the constant remarks of discouragement and doubt that she was dealt from those close to her. Through this private intimate story she shared Jeanie fought back tears.

A traditional novice small business owner, when faced with hardship, would lose motivation and eventually seek out a different avenue. But in this instance Dupuis held strong and tough. She faced more than one wall and overcame each triumphantly.

When asked how she did it, where she found the courage and heart to press onward, she smiled and said that she was able to do it all through God.

Even though Dupuis started this journey alone, she recently acquired the help and support of Shawn Costello, a local teacher from Riverside Preparatory in Oro Grande. Costello donates as much of her time as possible to the bakery by washing dishes, prepping dough, sweeping floors, taking orders and helping to keep the shelves stocked with product.

This will become a distant memory with help from the Apple Valley H.S. Regional Occupational Program (ROP). With the help of the program, the hardworking twosome will no longer be alone.

The AVHS ROP is in the process of creating a baking and agricultural relationship specifically with Dupuis’ bakery for its students. Each student will be able to contribute 180 hours of volunteer work to the bakery, in either baking or agriculture. The agriculture area will consist of tending a garden that will be located around the bakery, and can be utilized for its resources. The ROP Baking program will be instructed by Christine Celie, and is set to launch in the upcoming fall semester. Classes are open and available to Apple Valley & Granite Hills H.S. students.

During the interview, Dupuis was caught off guard when a county vehicle pulled up in the small parking lot. A woman (whom asked to remain anonymous) crossed the threshold and introduced herself as the County Health Inspector.

After a quick introduction and a flash of county credentials, the Health Inspector made her way around the front counter and slowly disappeared into the bakery as Dupuis and Costello sat by the entrance.

Continued in Bakery on page 8
Biology club: life outside the lab

By Brenda Ortiz
RamPage Reporter

Biology is universally known as the study of life. It is also a requirement of our “college life” to take the course. At Victor Valley College not only is biology offered as a course, there is also a club dedicated to the subject.

In a mission statement on VVC’s website, the club’s purpose is to offer students learning experiences in the natural environments, provide an opportunity to students to communicate with biologists within the field, classroom, lab, and to be a part of the VVC community.

“It’s a good way to explore career opportunities as well as learn of the natural and medical aspects of biology,” said student and club member Bernard Hernandez.

Pamela Mackay, professor of Biology at VVC, is not only the teacher but also the advisor of the Biology club. Carolyn Meyers, Pamela Mackay and other science aficionados decided to re-charter the unique, fun and educational club to provide an environment to anyone who is seeking a career in the field or simply to satisfy the curiosity of the subject itself.

“Right now I’m not teaching any major courses, but when do I have the major courses students participate more,” says MacKay.

In the club there are fundraisers held for field trips and biological guest speakers. They meet up to discuss future trips and fundraisers to attend. Past trips include excursions to Death Valley National Park, Mojave Narrows Regional Park, La Brea Tar Pits, the San Diego and L.A. Zoo and many other places.

Currently, the club is fundraising for a tour of UCI Medical Center for those interested in the pre-med and a trip to Catalina Island where they plan to camp overnight and have the opportunity to work in a nursery and to discuss a project over restoring parts of the island. For such trips, the Biology club will be holding fundraiser events on April 15 and 29, as well as May 1. They will be having bake sales on those dates in the Student Activity Center.

“It’s a great place to be. Everyone gets along. They get volunteered experience and it looks good on a resume. It’s really a cool opportunity,” Meyers said.

Any student is welcome to join and there is no requirement. Club meetings are held every Monday at 12 p.m. in the Science Building, room 11. For more information on the Biology club contact Pamela MacKay via email at Pamela.mackay@vvc.edu or club president Carolyn Meyers at (760) 949-2728 or email her at canmeyers@yahoo.com.

Renovation in G minor

Music building redesigned with students in mind

By Kylie Foster
RamPage Reporter

The music building on campus is undergoing a renovation headed-up by faculty member, Thomas Miller and NTD Architecture. Renovations will include larger rehearsal spaces for the band and the chorale.

The architects will build more practice rooms as opposed to the two rooms they currently have. The new design will incorporate sound-proof offices where individual music and singing lessons will be taught to fulfill music major requirements.

While in the process of an asbestos removal, the state also provided the school with money for the entire building to be upgraded. This is the school’s oldest building with no previous upgrading or refurbishing. As a part of the original campus, it was chosen when Victor Valley College was given bond money to help better campus buildings.

“We get the abatement that we need. We get the practice spaces that we really need... And we’re going to actually teach a focused music degree. Someone can actually transfer with a music degree,” said Dr. Miller.

The architectural team and Miller, who has designed multiple choir rooms, were given three weeks to come up with solid plans for the upgrades. After meeting the specific requirements, the building plans are underway. The reconstruction is on hold until the state approves the tear down process. Once they finish demolishing the old bathrooms, they will begin renovations.

The current chorale space was already admired by choir directors outside of the community college realm. Jo-Michael Scheibe, a chorale director at USC, personally praised Miller for the chorale room the students at VVC get to use. It is uncommon for community colleges to have enough space let alone a room with adequate sound quality. This is an area in which the VVC Music building excels and plans to expand.

According to Miller, music majors who transfer from VVC are often very successful. He recalls a story of his former student being the only community college transfer to be prepared in the music program at their university.

“Our program is very strong and our students do very well,” said Dr. Miller.

Students will also benefit from new restrooms, a large workroom, and lockers for their instruments. Along with new heating lines, expanded storage, and a revamped piano lab, the facility will include completely new acoustics, optimizing sound quality. This part of the renovation is being done by Acoustic Dimensions, headed by Dr. Miller’s son Jeffrey Miller.

“We are not trying to outdo anybody. We just want people prepared,” said Dr. Miller.

The heart of the renovation is to give music students the best facility possible. Each upgrade was designed with the students in mind. The building is expected to be operational in the Spring of 2014.
**Walk, jog or run to save a life**

By Chelsea Hartshorn
*RamPage Reporter*

For the first time, St. Jude's Research Hospital is bringing their fundraising to the High Desert. On Saturday, April 27 at Sunset Ridge Park, the 10k race hosted by Puddle Pirate Productions, is hoping to reach a goal of $10,000 for the treatment of children with life-threatening illnesses.

“We're trying to help kids live long enough to enjoy life,” Relations Chairman Amber Schwartz said.

The race will take off at 9:30 a.m., but participants should arrive by 8:00 a.m. to get a good head start. You can also volunteer at no cost as early as 6:00 a.m. for set up and preparation. VVC students from the child development center will be volunteering and walking as well.

St. Jude is the only pediatric center that does not charge families who have no insurance. At an average 1.7 million dollars a day, 75 percent comes from the peoples donations. Just a small price for the life saving fun you’ll have.

In 1962, St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital made it their goal to fight the battle and prevention of juvenile terminal illnesses.

The outdoor, barbeque vibe provides a healthy and cheerful experience. Vendors such as balloon animals, radio stations, food, informative booths and more will be open to families of St. Jude's patients, the high desert community and anyone who wants to join in.

On the day of the event, raffle tickets will be sold each with the chance to win a video production, a pin-up photo shoot, and other talent opportunities. Nina Hart and others from the St. Jude's fundraising team are able to provide medical information, as well as the donation procedures at St. Jude's. Hart has sponsored a handful of fundraisers from cancer walks to HG awareness.

"Children should not have cancer, but it does happen and if there is something we can do as a community and give back as a whole, then we need to do it. So far, it’s been going great," Hart said.

Hart became involved with the walk-a-thon when she saw the Puddle Pirate Productions fundraiser on Facebook. She sent them an email to volunteer. Now a Vendor Chairman and sponsor, she is continuously searching for vendors to promote their business. Puddle Pirate Productions in Victorville is a high quality video production company. Their team covers all aspects of film and video with the latest equipment, and still gives their time to help others.

"Please, let’s promote walkers to come out as groups to support the cause and any donations made to St Jude would be greatly appreciated. This is the first year, so if we can start off great, next year will be even better," said Hart.

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**Another successful trip for MUN**

By Ethan McGarvey
*Senior Staff Writer*

The Victor Valley College Model United Nations team recently attended a conference in New York City. Not only did the team bring back three awards, but also gained a wealth of knowledge and experience in foreign relations.

The team received an award for outstanding delegation, a position paper and best delegate. According to Dakota Higgins, Vice President for Research, the best delegate is voted on by all the people participating in the conference.

The conference was the second one for Higgins and he was part of the special committee on peacekeeping operations.

The MUN team from VVC consisted of 17 members and the team represented the country of Lebanon during the conference. In the overall experience, the MUN team collectively learned one key lesson.

“Diplomacy. We had a lot of people learn lessons on how to work with others, especially people from Europe and other cultures,” said Higgins.

The MUN team matured over the course of the five days of the conference and learned how to transition from an academic environment into a business environment. With about 500 people making up the general assembly at the conference, it could get quite intimidating at times.

“The conference allowed me to work as a leader, build confidence in leadership, and how to negotiate in large groups of people,” said MUN President, Justin Kilborn.

Kilborn was a delegate in the general assembly 1st committee and represented topics that were security and disarmament related. With so many different schools and students from all over the world attending the conference, many different points of view collided and converged at the conference. Kilborn referenced how it was interesting to see the different outside views of different governments and how other people were more interested in our
By Gabriel King
Senior Staff Writer

From Avon to Zen-Scent, the farmers market has it all. Fresher, cheaper, better than the local markets and right in our own backyard. Beautifully picked flowers and fresh grown fruits and vegetables are all for sale. Delicious, healthy foods to snack on and enjoy. Homemade goods and crafts available for purchase. Sports jerseys, caps, and lanyards of your favorite sports teams. Even house furniture is there to buy. Baby clothes, skin care and a new pair of glasses. Cold drinks, hot snacks and a great family environment. All of this can be found at the farmers market every Thursday at the lower Victor Valley College campus.
**Bringing culture to the desert**

By Ashlee Dubach  
*News Editor*

As the buzz of the crowds whispers die out, the 2013 Spring Concert opens with John Phillip Sousa’s arrangement of The Star Spangled Banner. As the anthem concludes, the Victor Valley College Band plays right into a cheery toned piece by Franz Schubert.

The rooms atmosphere remains uplifted as conductor Craig Pridmore exits the stage and conductor Patty Thayer takes over. Imperium by Michael Sweeney builds softly yet dramatically throughout the performance.

The room shifts as the flute choir plays cheery melodies with a variation of slow and fast tempos. Each musician moving gracefully with their instrument, swaying slightly with the progression of each build.

The Brass Choir members take their place on stage confidently. They play with precise musicians is heightened and the crowd matches the enthusiasm. The finale is a burst of precision and energy that beings the crowd to their feet in a long round of applause that finally ends as Pridmore begins to conclude the night.

The spring concert delighted guests with classical and historical music.

*Photo by Ashlee Dubach, News Editor*

**Thursday night jazz goes down smooth**

By Gabriel King  
*Senior Staff Writing*

Victor Valley College’s music department showcased their talents by playing classic songs with a smooth, clean and impressive jazz performance.

A guitar ensemble opened Thursday night; over 15 guitarists came on stage and they started a little shaky but came together strongly. One piece of music was a melody of “Valses Porticos.” The piece is a very clean sounding and slightly hypnotizing work. All the guitars playing at the same time in different tunes made for a different and interesting experience. They did not need the rest of an orchestra to get their music to sound whole. They made the piece their own way and were great at adding their own style of playing.

The fourth section in the piece, the allegro umoristico had the feel of Michael Corleone rising to power and taking over the Corleone family business. It was a strong emotionally driven piece with a strong climax that brought a lot of the crowd to cheer even though the conductor told everyone to hold their applause until the end but when they did finish their performance and thunderous applause rained down onto the stage.

After their performance, next was The Jammin’ Rams. They graced the stage and did a rendition of “Fly Me to the Moon,” which was a soulful rendition that had the audience moving to the beats. Olyusesye Akimwande performed a piano solo that was beautifully unique with a strong jazz influence. The horns came in during his solo and they meshed well with the piano. The drum solo started and it was over two minutes long but brought in a more hip hop instrumental beat and after the solo the tempo was constant with his solo beat.

It seemed as if they were playing against one another because they would play the same beat but they tried to out do each other. They played off each other during songs as well they made the songs more interesting than if they were playing it normal. When they finished their set they strolled off stage with cheers and applause.

The Performancing Arts Center was buzzing about the performance and the Rams looked to be having a great time playing with each other on stage. Their chemistry together was spectacular and looked as if they were playing together for years. It showed how much they practiced and became one unit over this semester.

When the bands were all done and Thursday Night Jazz was all but over there were applause and great songs heard. The night was filled with great renditions and songs that were powerful and strong. The next Jazz Night event here at VVC will be June 5.
A police drama worthy of taste

By Micah Raimo
Special to the RamPage

The name Hannibal Lecter is linked with gory scenes of human cannibalism with a spirig of refined detective intrigue. Originally, Anthony Hopkins solidified the fictional villain into the minds of movie culture as the clinical psychologist who ate people as a form of public service.

When Hopkins put on the mask to face Special Agent Will Graham (Edward Norton) in "Red Dragon," rules were revealed about his twisted game. These rules progressed into the TV series without sparing any of the visceral details.

The interaction between Norton and Hopkins characters is the result of NBC’s "Hannibal." A decade later, actors Hugh Dancy and Mads Mikkelsen started where there "Red Dragon" predecessors ended, helping the FBI capture murderers that redefine criminally insane. While Graham is hot on the trail, Lecter remains one step ahead.

Mikkelsen’s portrayal of the cunning doctor almost equals that of Hopkins. The writing for the character is without the typical one-liners and maintains intelligence not often found in modern TV cop dramas. What Mikkelsen brings to the character is the powerful arrogance that audiences witnessed in the Hannibal Lecter films.

Dancy plays Graham like a nervous wreck of an anti-socialite, plagued by his horrific gift of a gruesome artistic imagination—an imagination that Agent Jack Crawford (Laurence Fishburne) needs to capture these murderers. At first, the regression of a character after seeing the 2002 film was almost comedic. The deconstruction of the character is nothing compared to the confidence and direct courage of Norton.

The upside to Dancy’s frizzy portrayal is that the audience is reintroduced to the Special Agent.

For “Hannibal,” a cheesy pendulum effect is used as a sort of rewind device to show the audience what Agent Graham sees so the viewer is shown the event as it takes place. The effect ultimately looks like a yellow wind-shield wiper that destroys the interplay in the scene.

Dancy’s constant anxiety attacks are foiled by Mikkelsen’s intelligent portrayal of the doctor. The maladjusted demeanor Dancy lends to Will Graham seems to be the only excusable flaw. Without it, a progression to the character could not be established to what fans know Graham to be.

“Hannibal” cuts away the layers provided by Hopkins and Norton in the precursor and allows Mikkelsen and Dancy to build on the student/teacher cat-and-mouse relationship briefly illustrated in “Red Dragon.” The show holds lots of promises that rival the Hannibal Lecter thrillers and leaves fans of the Thomas Harris series salivating for more.

MUN from page 9

government’s foreign policy and not so much its domestic policy.

“It was good working with other students and other schools, developing contacts, and creating new contacts that stretch outside of here,” said Kilborn.

While the MUN team did get a couple days of rest and sight-seeing while in New York, the other five days were dedicated to competing at the conference.

Overall, the MUN team had an outstanding conference and a good experience.

Rhye serenades with debut album

By Brandon Chiz
Special to the RamPage

Shrouded in mystery for almost a year, the Los Angeles duo Rhye released their debut album “Woman” on March 5.

In the summer of 2012 the musical duo released two music videos on YouTube, “Open” and “The Fall”, with little information about the project they are now involved in. It left audiences wanting more and curious about the musical pair.

Mike Milosh, hailing from Toronto Canada, is an electronic musician, classically trained as a cellist and jazz aficionado since he was child and the main vocalist for Rhye. While Danish Robin Hannibal is the main musician/producer veiling this album with the smooth, gentle and decadent subtleties that really compliment Milosh.

“The Fall,” sparkles beautifully as it picks up the pace a bit as the soft-spoken strings and horns swell throughout the song and towards the middle-section becomes an intimate late night slow-dance track.

As “Woman” progresses with each track, it cements that this is an album that truly simmers overlaying each track with a certain sexiness without ever being overt.

Although this alluring production is a strength of theirs, at times it seems to halt their ambitions as the album as a whole never reaches an actual climax.

While the soulful instrumentation keeps the album afloat, the lyrics when they stand alone fall flat. Their lyrics are often saccharine that by itself are overly-simplistic and repetitive.

Even with their title-track, and closer, “Woman,” it continuously flows with Milosh’s voice and angelic horns but ends abruptly. It’s not that Rhye lacks any talent, or even ambition, rather that they’ve become comfortable within their particular style.

Still, Rhye’s “Woman” is a delightful night-time album. It’s a sensual production, full of string-kissed pieces and elaborately established horns that warmly wrap this into a delicate album, never crossing the line of being too boisterous. If they continue to amalgamate their subtle style, while improving their lyricism, Rhye will truly develop into a beautiful duo to follow.
Emo is the reason

By Gabriel King
Senior Staff Writer

Tyler the Creator has been at the center of controversy with his lyrics and he is one of the most unique rappers in hip hop right now. His latest album “Wolf” shows his producing talent and the way he can structure a rhyme for his song. At this point no one is doing anything like Tyler at this point or ever.

Tyler the Creator hasn’t changed his attitude at all but he has toned it down. He still doesn’t care if you like his album or not but his mentally has changed due to his success. He continues to reach an audience and gain more fans.

A Leader of OFWGKTA (Odd Future Wolf Gang Kill Them All) Tyler has created his third studio album and it is different and it is not as violent or as crazy. His I don’t care what you think attitude is still there but his views on his life now are calmer. Fans of Tyler the Creator will see the change and more emotion put into “Wolf.” His song “Colossus” shows that he is starting to see the impact that his lyrics and songs are having on his fans. The song deals with fans coming up to him and he yells at them and they start telling him how much they look up to him.

In “Wolf” he features more artist than his last two albums: Hodgy Beats, Frank Ocean, Pharrell Williams, Erykah Badu and Casey Veggies. It’s a new direction for Tyler; he has more concepts in “Wolf” than his previous albums “Bastard” and “Goblin.” It’s not kill, kill, kill and gay bashing. He is starting to mature as an artist, and showcase more of his talents.

The thing that shows Tyler is not another cookie cutter rapper is that no matter how absurd his raps are. He has talent for hip hop. He is a crazy, young, ignorant kid but that’s one of the reasons he has a huge following. He outrages and offends you and you are okay with it. That’s just how he is and he is the only rapper in the hip hop game with the “I’ll say whatever I want and you’ll still listen to it” style.

Tyler produced all 18 tracks on Wolf, his beats are unique, a little Beastie Boy beats with harder Tech N9ne lyrics. The beats he makes are sounds of a lower beat machine. He is more focused on beats than actual rapping which shows that he is starting to care more about his music by making his style more popular and fresh. It’s a new approach to mainstream hip hop styles. His production skills have advanced past his last al-

Continued in Tyler on page 17
More butts than an ash tray

By Gabriel King
Senior Staff Writer

Freshman Cody Bissett dislikes butts. In fact, he dislikes all of them, regardless of shape, color and size. And there is nothing you can do to convince him otherwise.

Bissett is part of a group of students who find themselves frustrated by people who violate the college’s smoking policy, which states that students should not smoke within 20 feet of operable doors and windows.

There are five ash trays that are closer than 20 feet which causes smokers to stand closer to the buildings when they light up. On every building’s entrance, government code section 7597a is posted reading “No public employee or member of the public shall smoke any tobacco product inside a public building, or in an outdoor area within 20 feet of a main exit, entrance, or operable window of a public building, or in a passenger vehicle.”

These violations can get Victor Valley College students into a lot of trouble.

“I sat down once at a bench to eat and a group of smokers sat next to me and started to smoke next to me. The smoke was so gross I had to stop eating and leave. I have also seen ducks with cigarette butts in there mouths they think its food,” said Bissett.

The litter of cigarette butts is in most areas an eye sore and makes the campus look trashy. Now they cause a danger to all the ducks and birds that mistake them for food.

There are no security or police telling students to move away from the doors or to put their cigarettes out, so the code is not enforced.

Wisdom from Wilder

By Micah Raimo
Special to the RamPage

Fictional Lampoon partier Van Wilder gave some helpful advice to a fellow student who suffered from a bad night: “Always check the quality of the turf before stepping out onto the field.”

With the drug resistant strain of Gonorrhea going around, the character couldn’t be more correct.

Even though the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) hasn’t published the current data, according to Health Officer for the City of San Bernardino, Maxwell Ohikhuare MD, Gonorrhea infections have gone up 33% in San Bernardino County, making its comeback in high school and college students.

“Technically Gonorrhea fits the definition of an epidemic, but the term ‘epidemic’ implies out of control and widespread, so it is not used in respect to Gonorrhea. [Control of the Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI)] is achievable if we can get the message to the physician’s offices about the correct treatment guidelines, and also remind our sexually active population to practice safer sex or abstinence and promise rings to the turf before stepping out onto the field.”

With April being the National STI Awareness Month, safe sex, abstinence and promise rings would be stressed in order to refrain from saying-hello-to some friends and greeting an onslaught infectious information. Gonorrhea will be amongst the contagious boogie bunch of bed buddies.

So when “. . . [it’s] time to say goodbye to the parents . . . and say hello to a few new student bodies,” (Wilder) remember that the CDC website explained that Gonorrhea is an important preventable causes of infertility.

Having the fear of whether or not a person has acquired Gonorrhea can be a waste of time. Not to say you should avoid the free clinic but it’s better to know and get treated than not. According to Wilder, “worrying is like a rocking chair. It gives you something to do, but it doesn’t get you anywhere.” With that regard, get over the fear of peeing in a cup and get tested. “Remember: don’t be a fool; Wrap your tool,” said Wilder.

Questions, comments, and concerns, email me at: the raimoable@gmail.com.
Rams Double Header

Double header game one: A swing and miss

By Clarissa Valenzuela
RamPage Reporter

The Victor Valley College Rams baseball team played their first and only doubleheader game of the season against the West Hills Coalinga Falcons at home, Saturday March 30th.

The Rams remained scoreless in the first three innings and were not able to pass second base. Eventually Rams defense allowed only one run from the Falcons. Tension started to brew around the fourth inning; a bad catch from the Rams let Falcons pass from first base to second, leaving the inning with a score of 2-1 Falcons ahead.

“Defense and hitting, that’s what hurt us. Our pitchers have been strong all this season, but we just can’t back them up,” said Coach Beltran.

The Falcons scored three runs in the fifth and sixth innings and two more runs in the eighth inning, with a score being 10-1. Rams did not let the score get them down. Teammates continued to cheer on one another and improved on their offense in the ninth inning.

The bases were loaded throughout the ninth inning for the Rams. With freshman Chris Solis being first to bat, he swung a single out to right field. Freshman Jose Bueno also scored for Rams with a hit to left field.

“The only thing we can do is let this go and come ready to practice,” said Coach Beltran.

With the help of a walk from freshman Adolfo Espinoza, due to a bad pitch to the arm, Rams scored two times. Falcons won the first game of the doubleheader with the score being 10-3. A list of Rams baseball games to come are listed in the VVC athletics website.
Double header game two: Defensive woes continue

The Victor Valley College Rams baseball team lost 9-1 in a non-conference match-up against the West Hills Coalinga Falcons in a disappointing performance on Saturday, March 30 at Home.

After losing the first match of the only double-header scheduled this season, the Rams looked to bounce back in the second game. Unfortunately, the Falcon's got off to a fast start and did not let up.

In the first inning, Falcon's leadoff hitter Johnny Barrera tripled to left field. Barrera would later score on a sacrifice fly from sophomore Antonio Ibarra. After Rams pitcher Dylan Black walked Falcon's infielder Nikky Gonzales, catcher Chisholm Witt drove Gonzales home with a single to left field, putting the Falcon's up 2-0.

Finishing the side in order, the Falcons continued their assault in the second inning with a single from outfielder Brad Rolff followed by an error by Black which led to Falcons infielder Fernando Gutierrez reaching base.

Later, Barrera singled through the left side to load the bases. Freshman Cody Dietz then grounded out which drove in Rolff. In his second at bat, Gonzales grounded out to second and scored Gutierrez with an unearned run. To add insult to injury, Ibarra singled to right field, bringing Barrera home with another unearned run for the third and final run of the inning.

The Falcon’s put the game out of reach in the fourth when Gonzales doubled to center field. Ibarra reached base on an error from second baseman Rudy Jimenez. Freshman Karson Canaday singled through the left side which loaded the bases. Witt came through for the Falcons, driving in Dietz in the sixth inning with his third RBI of the game.

“Ibarra, who got the pitching win for his team, had six strikeouts on the mound and scored the final run for the Falcons-- singling to left field and driving in Dietz in the sixth inning with his third RBI of the game.”

The loss puts the Rams at 4-20 for the season with a record of 1-11 in Foothill conference play. With 12 games left this year, Coach Beltran insists that it is imperative his team stay focused on the rest of the season.

“We try to teach these guys: Dwell on what happened that day, but just let it go because...”

Coach Beltran's central concern with his team is their glove-work.

“Defense, that’s what hurt us, Our pitching and hitting has been strong all year, they’ve kept us in ball games, but we just can't back them up,” said Beltran, “We have to come back on Monday and work defense, defense, defense.”

Ibarra score, the Rams managed to get out of the inning, trailing 8-1.

With 49 errors this season, Coach Beltran’s central concern with his team is their glove-work.

“Defense, that’s what hurt us, Our pitching and hitting has been strong all year, they’ve kept us in ball games, but we just can't back them up,” said Beltran, “We have to come back on Monday and work defense, defense, defense.”

The Rams only run came from catcher Steve Gillette, whose R.B.I single in the fifth inning, drove in freshman Cesar Valenzuela.

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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.

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