VVC honored for going green

By Abram Martinez
RamPage Reporter

The California Community Colleges Board of Governors (CCCBG) honored Victor Valley College with one of its Annual Energy and Sustainability Awards on May 7 at a board meeting in Sacramento.

The award from the CCCBG was the result of hard work from students and especially members of the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources Management in the fields of sustainable energy and water conservation.

“It’s great to see the advances that our colleges are making in sustainability and saving energy which ultimately saves money,” said CCCBG President Manuel Baca in an April 19 press release. “When I see winning entries I can’t help but be proud of how our colleges are leading the way in this field. We started these awards to highlight and

Continued in Sustainability on page 2

RamPage on site and online

By Ethan McGarvey
Senior Staff Writer

The Victor Valley College RamPage student newspaper recently unveiled its online website to the general public, further expanding the program and connecting with a larger audience.

“The website is a huge step forward and is going to benefit our program as a whole bringing it up to higher standards. Our student reporters and editors for years to come are going to be not only learning about print media, but also the ins and outs of the online aspect of the journalism field. The internet and social media are becoming a larger part of the journalism industry, and the RamPage students now have the opportunity to become a part of that,” said Editor-in-Chief Kelli McGurk.

The VVC RamPage has a dedicated and hard-working staff, which has always had bigger goals set in mind for the outlook of the college paper. Among the ever piling list of items to accomplish, the website was always been near the top of that list. Finally, with this unveil, the VVC journalism program gets one step closer to competing on the same level as other college papers. “We attended the JACC (Journalism Association of Community Colleges) conference last year and some of our editors and reporters got the opportunity to see what award-winning newspapers look like. When they compared our paper with those papers, they were a little upset. It would’ve been very easy to cue the Charlie Brown music and shuffle back to Victorville and feel sorry for themselves, but they came back a little chippy and re-doubled

Continued in Website on page 2

Community members are called to action

By Abbie Berg
RamPage Reporter

On April 29, community members Holly Noel and Diana Carloni held a Call to Action meeting. The meeting was an effort to rally the community to confront Victor Valley Community College Board of Trustees with concerns regarding VVC’s accreditation status.

The meeting was held in part to inform the public of important facts regarding the accreditation report and iron out misinformation. The different accreditation sanctions and what they mean, financial responsibility, leadership and long term planning for VVC’s future were all topics discussed at the meeting that was held at the Spring Valley Lake community center.

Many community members and VVC faculty attended the meeting, which was open to the public. Among those present was VVC Board Of Trustees member, John Pinkerton. Noel and Carloni want the Board, Administration and faculty to work together as a team to finish the goals set by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC). These goals include providing definitive proof and explanation of process as the college takes steps to get back on track.

Noel and Carloni acknowledge the efforts to keep the community informed because there is a link on the VVC website where one can find all the letters from the ACCJC as well as each fol-
**News in Brief**

- The Spring Valley Lake Lyons Club will host a poker tournament on May 25 in the SAC. Proceeds benefitting the Campaign for Classes. Contact eric.pearson@vvc.edu for more info
- Lewis Williams Travel Series: “Vietnam and Cambodia” May 19 @ 2:30p.m. in the PAC $8 General Admission. ASB Free* 
- Academy for Academic Excellence presents “Dance it up!” May 21 @ 6:30p.m. $8 pre sale $10 at the door 760-946-5414 19 @ 2:30p.m. in the PAC $8 General Admission. ASB Free* 
- VVC Dance Program Presents “Rhapsody in Dance” May 31–June 1 @ 7:30p.m. and June 2 @ 2:30 p.m. $10 Adults $7 Seniors $5 Children ASB Free* 
- Sustainability for Classes: “Vietnam and Cambodia” May 19 @ 2:30p.m. in the PAC $8 General Admission. ASB Free* 
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*Sustainability from page 1

reward exemplary energy and sustainability efforts on our campuses and to help motivate others.”

The main justification for the award is the six acre one-megawatt solar field on the northeast side of the VVC main campus that was constructed by the clean energy company SolFocus in 2010. The college also got students involved by asking them to help identify old and inefficient lighting fixtures throughout the college that needed to be replaced.

VVC was one of three colleges selected in the field of 112 colleges governed by the CCCBG and received the District Leadership Award for Energy and Sustainability. Other recipients were Santa Monica College and West Valley College with Skyline College. Mira Costa Community College District and Sonoma County Junior College District received honorable mentions for their efforts.

“California has the highest mandate for renewable energy. I think, of anywhere in the world,” said Neville Slade, Professor of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Another positive addition to VVC’s mission towards sustainability was the massive landscaping project which replaced 21,000 feet of turf with drought tolerant landscaping throughout the campus that is estimated to save nearly a million gallons of water per year.

“To be sustainable all we really have to do is mimic nature, we have to copy nature, and where does nature get all its energy from? The Sun,” said Slade.

With new future renovations in the works the college has the ability to further benefit its facilities with a “Savings by Design” program which is a partnership with Southern California Edison that gives the college the ability to earn $200,000 in incentives by initiating energy efficient capabilities in the construction of the new Health and Sciences Facility.

Slade was very adamant about emphasizing the fact that besides providing sustainable energy on campus, these advancements can provide growth in curriculum opportunities for numerous ‘green’ career paths, such as plant sciences, horticulture, animal sciences and water management.

Beginning in the summer of 2013, for those interested in ‘green’ careers and certificates, there will be a series of courses, workshops, and field study trips that are great ways for students and members of the community to become involved in the field of providing natural resources to our environment as well as opening up their experience in the ever-growing vocations of Natural Resources careers.

“This is a wonderful way for us to highlight that VVC does have education in natural resources and ‘green’ and there is a huge potential for people to learn that and get jobs from that,” said Slade.

**Website from page 1**

their efforts to create their own award-winning newspaper. They’re a hard-nosed group and I love that about them,” said faculty advisor Nick Hartman.

Collectively, the VVC RamPage members have all contributed in some form or another. But, special recognition should be given to the RamPage Social Media and Online Editor, Daniel Mariano.

“Even though he hates the attention, Daniel Mariano found out that a website redesign was a part of our strategic plan on a Monday night. He showed up two days later and presented the class and myself with a completely redesigned website. And while Daniel has only been with us a short time, personality-wise he’s very typical of this group,” said Hartman.

The initial launch of the website was delayed due to a glitch with the domain name. Some of the problems are still being ironed out, but overall the website is a huge success. The interface is streamlined with pictures that really stand out and links to all of the current articles and some of the older articles too.

In describing the building process of the website, Mariano references what he saw as great ideas and what he saw as bad ideas.

“I was checking out other web pages, and I was thinking: that works, but I don’t like that. That’s better here, so I like that, but I do not want to do this. So I was picking everything a la carte. But, what makes me really want to do it, is that I feel like we actually have a really good looking website,” said Mariano.

The VVC RamPage website is just one more step in the progressing development of the journalism program. The website allows the RamPage to connect to a broader audience instead of just the VVC populous. Other students from other campuses will be able to see the body of work from the VVC RamPage and be able to connect through social media outlets.

“Now we have a wider audience that we can reach. Before, of course, we had physical papers and with physical papers you have to physically grab them or physically hand them out or they have to be physically in certain areas. I can be in Tennessee and have access to our website or I can shoot a link of the website to anybody or I can easily access stories that I need to show people,” said Managing Editor Garrett Johnston.

As a team, the VVC RamPage is proud of the new website and looks forward to the next big steps in the program. The new website can be found at VVCRamPage.org. Please email your comments or story ideas to us at vvcram-page@gmail.com.

VVCRamPage.org is the new website of your student newspaper.
New partnership benefits VVC students

By Daniel Mariano
Online/Social Media Editor

Brandman University and Victor Valley College are coming together to help current students get on track to fulfilling their bachelor’s degree.

Both colleges met up on the VVC campus to commemorate their partnership together on May 9. Students who attended the celebration enjoyed music, food and Brandman giveaways.

“This is a celebration to recognize our partnership with Victor Valley College and our Early Advantage Program. Students want to further their education but often don’t know how or

Enforcing change: pay to print

By Ashlee Dubach
News Editor

Printing for free in the Technology building and Writing Center has come to a halt due to Victor Valley College’s new requirement of charging 15 cents per each side of a page.

Students of Victor Valley College are now required to pay 15 cents for every one sided page they print.

Instructions are posted by each printer in the building so students have clear steps to follow regarding the new system. The flyer states: a current student I.D. card is required to deposit funds into the account the prints are charged to. The account must be set up by each student in order to access school printers. The minimum amount to deposit is $5.00. A transaction fee of $1.20 will be charged for every deposit to the account.

Creating the account can be done in the technology building. Click print and a window will appear that sends users directly to the needed websites. A student needs a VISA, MasterCard, or Debit Visa to create an account. Since Higher One VVC Ram Cards are accepted through this program, students receiving financial aid all have a way to set up an account.

Previously, students were only able to print school related pages from the building and had a maximum print number of ten one sided pages. The pay-to-print system has reduced many student habits.

“It makes students responsible,” said Terrie Armstrong, technology center aide. “Before, I would walk around and find stacks of flyers someone got away with printing out, and they weren’t even related to the school.”

Students are no longer limited to the amount of pages they may print on any given day or what they print. It is suggested that it be primary school related content, but not mandatory. Student aides like Armstrong are presently not required to stay with the printer anymore. The students do not have to be checked for current VVC I.D.’s because the program requires it to sign up. So each person using the printer has already been validated.

“We were tied down at the printer before. Now, it’s easier to assist the students with their other concerns,” said Armstrong.

Victorville Campus. Some EAP benefits include the ability for current VVC student to complete classes at Brandman to fulfill requirements for an associate’s degree, as well as access to advising services, information meetings and educational plans while enrolled in both academic institutions.

Current degrees offered include business administration, criminal justice, early childhood studies, organizational leadership, psychology, social studies, sociology to name a few.

An example of Brandman’s Pathway Map can be found on their website. VVC courses that can be applied at for a Bachelor of Business Administration Degree at BU include English 101, 104, and Math 120 along with 19 other courses. That makes a total of 69 transferable units that can be completed at VVC before making the actual move over to BU and leaving the student with only 55 out of 124 units left to fulfill for their B.S.

When factoring in the financial aspect of everything, the cost of a B.S. via the EAP is remarkably lower compared to going in from the get-go. The 2013-2014 costs per unit at Brandman University are $500.00.

“What sets us apart from other private universities is that Brandman is here for the students all the way. We’ll help them out from beginning to end. Even if they aren’t attending yet and need counseling advice for their B.S. they can just walk in anytime without an appointment and they’ll receive as much help as we can offer,” said Estella Chavous, Director of New Business Development Southern Region for Brandman University.

The new partnership between both campuses looks like the beginning of a beautiful relationship for the two, but it looks even better for VVC Students.

Students can speak with a VVC counselor about transferring and what classes are needed to do so; VVC students can also speak with a Brandman Counselor.
Local Hot Spot: Cross Eyed Cow Pizza

By Daniel Mariano
Online/Social Media Editor

Victorville is home to many historical establishments. Some, over time, are condemned, preserved or renovated. More than a handful of these buildings go unnoticed and passed by daily without a blink of an eye from locals. Cross Eyed Cow Pizza however, is not one of these.

Originally constructed as a barn in the 1950s, over time, Cross Eyed Cow has transformed into what can be labeled as one of the best pizza restaurants in the high desert to date. The establishment is owned and operated by Jim Granger.

“A few years back I hit my head and said to myself, ‘I’m going to open up a pizza restaurant,’” said Granger.

After the laughter from his comment, Granger continued to elaborate on his real reason and passion for starting up, Crossed Eyed Cow.

“I have a love for pizza, always have. I mean, who doesn’t love pizza? So I took something I love and made it my reality,” said Granger. “We would go and buy a bunch of hot-n-ready’s for everyone whenever we had races. After the events, we would walk around and pick up pizza boxes that were trash, only to find them with only two to three slices missing. After seeing that, everyone just told themselves, ‘there needs to be a better pizza than this.’ That eventually just led to making the pizza ourselves.”

As the evening continued, the small National Trails Highway restaurant continued to fill with patrons from various locations throughout the High Desert. The dining area grew and life flooded the room. While guests were enjoying their meals, the heart of it all was beating in the kitchen. Geoff Hamrick, managing chef with 29 years experience in the restaurant industry kneaded and tossed dough as he elaborated on his story of being discovered by Granger.

Continued in Hot Spot on page 7
VVC celebrates Mexican heritage

Photos by Stacey Styulek, RamPage Photography Intern
One man’s trash

By Brenda Ortiz
RamPage Reporter

Victor Valley College’s Respiratory program and the California Nursing Students Association (CNSA) will be hosting the first Clutter for a Cause Rummage Sale, in support of programs offered at VVC.

The two groups are encouraging students and community members to bring in used items as donations. The items will be put up for the sale and the proceeds will be given to the Nursing and Respiratory programs to assist the students with graduation costs and any national testing fees after graduation.

“We are accepting all gently used items for the sale there is no specific criteria for donations,” said Amanda Pearson, Secretary for Respiratory Therapy.

The donations may consist of kitchenware, clothes, old frames, furniture and much more, as long as the items that are being donated are still in acceptable condition.

Not only is this a way to dispose of household items that are no longer needed but it is also an opportunity to help out the Nursing and Respiratory programs.

“Anything that people don’t have time to get rid of, we’ll take care of it for them,” said Nursing program student Shannon Fugate. “It’s time consuming, but in the end it will all pay off.”

The Clutter for a Cause rummage sale will be taking place on May 18, from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Student Activity Center. Come support future medical professionals by stopping in. For more information, contact Amanda Pearson at (760) 953-4065 or via email at: amandapearson71@gmail.com.

Auto tech gives students hands on learning

by Rasheta Driver
RamPage Reporter

On the lower campus of Victor Valley College there is a graveyard, or rather, a car graveyard. Cars are lined up outside the Automotive building and used as guinea pigs for automotive students to work on. At VVC, the cars are not the only ones being worked on in the automotive lab; other cars are also brought to them by students and other outside sources to be repaired.

The automotive lab is similar to a dealership or auto garage. At these locations there are ‘service writers,’ individuals who are responsible for writing repair orders, communicating to them the mechanic and estimating the final cost to the customer. The higher level technicians are the managers who do the paperwork and supervise the mechanics. The lower level technicians mainly work on the cars. The lower level mechanics and service writers are students and the higher level ones are teachers.

“Anything that people don’t have time to get rid of, we’ll take care of it for them,” said Lee Bennett, 16 year automotive teacher. “We’ve done that ever since the department started here.”

There’s a lot of other automotive departments but no one has a program that interacts like we do. If there is one out there I don’t know where else it is,” said Lee Bennett, 16 year automotive teacher.

In order to get their car worked on, a customer must bring their car down to the automotive lab. They will fill out a form and describe the problems they are having with their car. The student technicians will then diagnose it. If the customer decides to let the repair take place in the lab, they will be assisted in picking parts in which they must buy themselves.

A disclaimer is signed which specifies that the car may be kept anywhere from one day to a whole semester. The car is then left at the lab, along with the keys and after the service is completed, the customer may be required to pay a twenty dollar fee. If the service was insufficient, the mechanics will work on the car again, free of charge.

“By bringing customer cars in students learn life work just like they will in a shop,” said John Sweet, Department Chair of Automotive and an automotive teacher. “We’ve done that ever since the department started here.”

The automotive lab offers a variety of services that customers and students can take advantage of such as oil changes, getting brake work, alignments, tune ups, air conditioner and heater repairs, smog tests in addition to many other mechanic services.

Service writing student Nicole Reyes says she loves working in the automotive lab so much so that she comes in during her free time. However, there are also negative things she has to deal with such as communication issues and difficult customers.

“We get calls all the time, [people] will come in and yell at us, [and] tell us we’re wrong, but everyone they’re gonna talk to is going to be a student. You gotta be polite and business-like though and just take it,” said Reyes.

While there may be difficult aspects of having a customer based classes, all maintain they enjoy the environment they are put in. Mechanics are immediately thrown into a hands-on situation after they begin taking automotive classes learning directly how a car works.

“We are students and we are trying to learn” said Michael Reyes, a 21 year old automotive major at the college. “We take time and we wanna make sure we do it right.”
By Daniel Mariano
Online/Social Media Editor

While other girls her age are concerned with receiving the latest smart phone, or a car for their upcoming birthdays, sixteen-year-old Keriann Ensworth is asking the community and friends to donate items such as fleece to make blankets, slippers, etc. for sick children in place of gifts for her.

The young woman is taking in donations to spread hope for kids all over the U.S. as well as kids in the High Desert that are in her same situation. Ensworth has been in and out of hospitals for more than half of her life due to chronic illness.

Ensworth suffers from Amplified Musculoskeletal Pain Syndrome, which resulted in her having to undergo three surgeries: one for treatment of her illness and the remaining for ACL corrections on both of her feet. Because of her illness, she is in a home school/hospital setting.

With so much negativity going on in her life, she started to believe that there was no purpose for her life here on Earth. She asked herself on a daily basis why God is putting her through so many difficult trials until one day it dawned on her that she was not alone in pain. There are over 32 million kids hospitalized from chronic illnesses every year, kids that are feeling both the same physical and mental pain as her.

“I found my hope in God, and I found peace in knowing he was in control. Not everyone has that peace or hope so I wanted to spread hope to kids all over and by sending care packages to them which includes a homemade blanket made by me, toys, clothes that are comfy, slippers, and more,” said Ensworth.

Ensworth’s 17th birthday is on May 18 and she’ll be celebrating it with friends and family at the Civic Center Park in Apple Valley from 12-5 p.m. During her party, she will be accepting contributions to use in the care packages she’s putting together for her campaign.

Donated items can be everything from fleece to make blankets, new stuffed animals and toys, kids slippers, coloring books and crayons.

A donation jar will also be available. She needs to raise $750.00 by the end of this June in order to finalize the paperwork to make "KK’s Love" an official non-profit organization.

Lunch and dessert will be provided for guests. There will also be games and craft tables set up so people can create and decorate cards for packages that will go out to the children.

“I chose my birthday party to do this because it is what truly makes me happy. Helping others and helping these kids is one of the only times I don’t worry about my pain, and it lets me realize how much God has blessed my life. What better way to celebrate than to do it on the day God gave me this wonderful life,” said Ensworth.

For more information about Keriann Ensworth’s Birthday and her charity campaign for helping kids with chronic illnesses visit her Facebook page at “KK’s Love - a sick kid helping sick kids have hope.” On the page, viewers will be able to see photographs of the kids who receive the care packages, what’s inside, and the kids enjoying their gifts.

Hot Spot from page 4

“It wasn’t some wild-crazy story; I came into the restaurant just like all the furnishing and equipment… Craig’s List,” said Hamrick.

The staff gave off a few laughs, even though that’s exactly how Hamrick was brought into the Crossed Eyed Cow family.

Everything is made daily and fresh at, Cross Eyed Cow and it shows in every dish, even the small garlic knots that can’t seem to be made fast enough to keep up with the customers. The pizza is beyond remarkable and is difficult to find another to compare with. Cross Eyed Cow is more than just a small pizza place… it’s a High Desert treasure just waiting to be discovered.

Besides the great tasting food, the best element there is the atmosphere.

“I’ve worked in a few different places. But I’ve never been in a place like this, a place where not only the staff feels like family, but so does all the customers. I’m beyond happy to be a part of the Cross Eyed Cow family. You’re not going to find a place that feels better than here,” said Danielle “Dani” Boyd.


Victor Valley College Students will receive a 10% discount on their meal with a current VVC Student ID.
By Nicole Stacey
*RamPage Reporter*

Edward Martinez, an Associated Student Body (ASB) council member, is sitting in a Kia Soul parked outside the Student Activities Center (SAC) at Victor Valley College. Just moments after he is seated, a trash can near the door of the SAC catches fire. He leaps from the car, grabs a nearby barrel of ice and douses the flames.

"I busted out of here like The Flash," said Martinez.

After the threat of the fire is over he returns to the car, sits down, opens his laptop and begins working on his math homework. His MP3 player keeps him company in between the visits of others.

Martinez will spend the night in the car for Auto Occupado, a part of Victor Valley College’s Campaign for Classes. He expects he will spend it alone, with only the ducks outside to keep him company.

"It'll be quackers," he said of the ducks. "They'll be my wingman. They fit the bill."

The car in which he sits belongs to one Valley Hi Automotive Group dealership and is but one of many that are parked outside of the SAC during the event. A different car will be occupied each week, symbolizing the time many students often spend “sitting” on waiting lists for the classes they need.

The event began May 1, and will end June 7. At least one person will be in the car at all times during those five and a half weeks, or 888 hours, and Valley Hi Automotive Group will make a guaranteed donation of $20,000 to $25,000 to VVC. The donation will help the VVC Foundation to reach their fundraising goal of $250,000 by June 7. The football team, the cross country team, various other athletics groups, Model United Nations, Phi Theta Kappa, the RamPage and restaurant management are some of the campus groups that have signed on to do their share. According to Sewell, however, ASB remains predominant in participating.

Other community organizations have signed up to participate such as the Lions Club and Shear Realty included. Alumni have also returned to aid current students by donating time to Auto Occupado.

Car occupants are often found passing the time by studying, reading, or even just staying up all night and talking.

Pictures of the occupiers along with the groups they represent can be viewed at the Campaign for Classes Facebook page. VVC is still inviting students and community members to participate in the Auto Occupado event. To sign up for a shift, contact Sewell at (760) 245-4271 ext. 2395.

To close the gap, donations of any amount may be made through the VVC Foundation’s Campaign for Classes information website.

Additionally, $10 donations can be made by texting Give2VVC to 20222. Many individuals, including the Vice Chancellor of Community Colleges, have personally contributed to the campaign. Freeway billboard advertisements and radio ads yet to come are being used to promote the cause.

Students from the writing center played a game of Bopit to pass the time. *Photo by Kelli McGurk, Editor in Chief*

Φ Theta Kappa member Kyle Macy and Jessica Leseman take their turn donating their time inside the VVC Campaign car. *Photo by Kelli McGurk, Editor in Chief*
Sky divers drop in at VVC

Photos courtesy of Robert Sewell
On the road and looking for a bike lane

By Tanya Patterson
Assistant Managing Editor

Looking out my window at the gray skies and glistening pavement on the morning of May 6, I was stricken with a sudden bout of sadness.

It was the day of the 2013 Bear Valley Bike Ride, a ride to promote bike lanes in the High Desert, and certainly, the gloomy weather didn’t bode well for the scheduled event.

At 5 p.m. the sun was peeking through the clouds. There was a strong, steady wind coming through, but at least the rain had subsided. My mom dropped me off at the Lowe’s parking lot near the Victor Valley Mall just as other riders were unpacking their gear. I was the only one who wasn’t riding in spandex, and stood out like a sore thumb with my paper flower encrusted headgear. On that day, I realized that High Desert riders ride for speed and endurance, not the local commuting and occasional partying I had grown accustomed to during my years in LA.

I peddled up to another female rider while waiting for the ride to begin.

“Hi,” she said. “I’m glad to see I’m not the only girl on the ride today! You’re riding in jeans, I see. That’s pretty brave of you.”

I looked down at her shorts clad legs, which were pink from the cold wind.

“Yeah, but I’m warm,” I pointed out, and we both burst out laughing.

The girl is 26 year old Carrie Drury. She didn’t learn to ride a bike until she was 18, citing fear and clumsiness as her reasons for the delay. Living in Adelanto and up a dirt road makes it difficult for her to get out and ride often, but she tries to make it to local bicycle events. Her bike’s name is Rhoda.

“I call her Rhoda,” Drury tells me. “It’s because I’m a connoisseur of bad jokes, and well, I Rhoda bike…”

Among the riders in attendance were people of all ages and backgrounds. Children came safer rider. I can’t count how many times someone has helped me patch a tube or tighten my brakes on a ride and so I was more than delighted to pay it forward.

Upon arriving at the end of the route, Healthy High Desert handed out goodie bags filled with information and a commemorative pin for participating in the event. Next, we were greeted with bottled water and delicious, homemade snack bars, provided by Marianna Cole, owner of a very new local business called Ding-Bat Bars.

I got a chance to speak with Cole, as well as husband and wife team, Chuck and Pat Hanson as the participants were beginning to head out. They have known each other since 1999, and Cole has supported Chuck Hanson in his cycling advocacy for as long as they’ve been friends. For this year’s Bear Valley Bike Ride, she came to donate her healthy snack bars.

“I firmly believe in what they’re doing and what they’re trying to advocate,” said Cole.

“I want to help the community to become more active and healthy.”

This is the eighth year for the Bear Valley Bike Ride. The Hanson’s have seen an increase in cycling in the High Desert, prompting them to increase awareness of the need for bike lanes.

“The ride has helped add several [bike] lanes to the streets in both Apple Valley and Hesperia,” Pat Hanson said.

She notes that Victorville has not yet followed suit.

Another challenge facing cyclists in the Desert is a lack of understanding among drivers of the laws regarding cycling on major streets. Drivers can become easily frustrated by having to change lanes to accommodate people on bikes, who cannot match the speed of cars and need to avoid riding in the gutters. More bike lanes may be one solution that serves both rider’s and driver’s best interests.

However, even these lanes do not guarantee the safety of those who utilize them. Kevin Olin, a 56 year old cyclist was hit and killed while riding in a bike lane on Apple Valley Road this March.

“Bikes have a right to the road,” said Pat Hanson. “Inattentive drivers and drivers who think they own the road pose a serious threat to cyclists here. Whether you’re in a car or on a bike, you’ve got to pay attention to the road!”

In addition to the annual Bear Valley Bike Ride, the Hanson’s host the Tour de Apple Valley each Oct. More information on this year’s ride can be found at TourDeAppleValley.org.
Pedaling for a purpose:
A six mile bike ride to promote more bike lanes on the roads in the High Desert
*Photos by Tanya Patterson*
Wildely Earnest

By Janice Shore
RamPage Reporter

Opening to a small crowd, “The Importance of Being Earnest” was still a roaring success that had the audience bellowing with laughter. The 118-year-old play by Oscar Wilde is a farcical comedy that chronicles the outrageous predicament of a group of high-society Londoners. The play’s two main protagonists John Worthing and Algernon Moncrieff played by Garrett Botts and Andrew Lopez; Respectively, both use the name “Ernest” to win the hearts of Gwendolen Fairfax and Cecily Cardew, played by Samantha Hall and Rachell Hearne.

In taking on the name Ernest they become new personas of themselves which causes the young women to fall in love with them because they have always longed to marry someone named Ernest. The play’s use of satire also tackles deeper issues like moral, marriage, and the self-righteous air often demonstrated among the rich.

The design elements of the show took the audience back in time to the Victorian era. The intricate detail in each of the three scenes were not only historically accurate but also beautifully assembled. The transition from the city to the countryside flowed with ease switching from gem tones in the city to pastels in the country. Denise Pember-ton the scenic designer even painted an astonishingly accurate portrait of Lady Bracknell that hung in Algernon’s home. Lady Bracknell is played by Diane Wollan who has been a counselor at Victor Valley College for 12 years. Wollan who in real life is a kind and humble business woman transforms into an over-bearing and snobbish woman who commands attention each time she enters a scene.

Algernon stole the show Thursday night. Lopez epitomized his character like that of a seasoned pro with his flamboyant mannerisms and overdrawn speech. Surprisingly, this is only his second play and until attending VVC he had no prior experience acting.

Continued in Earnest on page 15

Pinocchio: there are no strings on me

By Jana Squire
RamPage Reporter

A Dancer’s Pointe dance studio is proud to introduce the full scale production of Pinocchio portrayed through the art of dance. This performance is coming to life in the Victor Valley College’s Performing Arts Center (PAC).

Owners and directors Pam Cambridge and Linda Hanley are taking on the timeless classic and embellishing it by bringing the scenes to life. The performance will include teddy bears and wooden dolls from Geppetto’s toy shop rising from their lifeless slumber.

All of the scenes consist of six to eight dances. The dancer’s will not be using their vocal cords, but instead, will speak through the art of dance. Close to 200 dancers with ages ranging from three years old to 18 years old, will be performing in the production.

Cambridge and Hanley are excited about this dance play along with the dancers and they anticipate the outcome to be very successful.

“It’s going to be fabulous” said Hanley.

There will be a total of three scenes: Geppetto’s toy shop, the carnival, and the ocean. The ocean scene will include fish, dancing about while the Whale swallows them whole.

A variety of music will be used throughout the performance. They will have Hip Hop, Ballet, Jazz, Tap, and even some ominous music for the tightrope walkers.

The lighting will be going from soft light to intensely dark flashing lights proving to make this performance entertaining for all ages.

A Dancer’s Pointe is keeping nearly all of the same storyline as the original, with the exception of Pinocchio’s growing nose.

“We could not find a way to incorporate a growing nose into the dances” said Hanley.

Pinocchio will be played by Sydney Smith. Other cast members include Siera Jones as Jiminy Cricket, Brookelynn Wetzel as Geppetto, Haley Whiting as the Blue Fairy, Scarlet Smith as Stromboli, Marissa Bilbee as Lampwick, Kelsey Bryant as Figaro, Savannah Conell as the Fox, and Hannah Springer as the Cat.

All dancers range in experience. Some have been dancing only one year while others have been dancing for almost 10. Cambridge and Hanley have been teaching the art of dance for approximately 15 years. Cambridge and Hanley have randomly chosen their dancers from all classes and all age groups.

“We expect the performance to go smoothly because the kids really rally together and do a great job. It’s always wonderful” said Hanley.

A Dancer’s Pointe dance studio is best known for their free children’s shows they hold every Fri. at the PAC.

This wonderful event will be held May 18th with two time showings at 1:00 pm and at 4:00 pm. Call the studio at (760) 242-0352 for ticket and show information.
The not so Great Gatsby

By Daniel Compean
Entertainment Editor

Director Baz Luhrmann’s “The Great Gatsby” is a tale of the Roaring 20s told with all the grace of Nick Carraway’s morbid alcoholism. Full of noise and mania, meaning next to nothing, the film satirically portrays the flamboyant decadence of the 1920s, which, if Luhrmann were more self-aware he would see the irony. The production’s not lacking; that much could be said.

Adapted from F. Scott Fitzgerald’s 1925 classic novel of the same name, “The Great Gatsby” follows the young Nick Carraway (Tobey Maguire), an aspiring bond broker in 1920s New York. He meets and befriends the enigmatic Jay Gatsby (Leonardo DiCaprio), a very affluent young man famed for his extravagant parties he throws for New York’s elite. While getting to know him, Nick learns of a past love affair between Gatsby and his cousin, Daisy Buchanan (Carey Mulligan), now married to another man. Nick is then caught in the midst of Gatsby and Daisy’s affair in this cautionary tale of the greed and downfall of the American dream.

It comes as no surprise that Luhrmann’s vision of “The Great Gatsby” is a visually impressive spectacle to behold, full of absurdist excess and opulence. Luhrmann’s previous works (“Romeo + Juliet,” “Moulin Rouge!”) were visually stunning films, that were largely flash over substance. “The Great Gatsby” is no exception as Luhrmann’s interpretation emphasizes visual parlor tricks at the expense of source material’s vivid story.

The grand scale of the film is enough to keep viewers engaged for a short period of time. This inevitably tapers off by the second act as “The Great Gatsby” offers little more than beautiful production design.

“The Great Gatsby” is a very top-heavy film with its dazzling visuals attempting to distract from its lack of charismatic heart. The movie is consistently pitched with such brazenness, that it’s robbed of any real dramatic tension.

A lot of novel-to-film adaptations would generally be called “story focused” but this would better be referred to as “story unfocused.” The screenplay exists in a sort of intangible miasma, sort of like DiCaprio’s relationship with his acting talent in this film.

DiCaprio, otherwise talented and skilled actor, suffers in his role as the eponymous Gatsby. This has little to do DiCaprio’s own integrity as an actor and more to do with the underwrit-

Continued in Gatsby on page 15

Iron Man 3: Stark’s average suit

By Abbie Berg
RamPage Reporter

“Iron Man 3,” the final chapter of the trilogy, scored as the second highest debut ever at 175.3 million dollars in its first three days in North America. Starring Robert Downey Jr. as Iron Man/Tony Stark, the hot-shot billionaire and crime fighting super hero, “Iron Man 3” takes the audience again on an action packed journey filled with laughs and heart.

Set right after “The Avengers”, another Marvel movie released last year, Tony Stark has traveled through the wormhole and destroyed a bunch of aliens. Returning to his now, not so normal life The Mandarin (Ben Kingsley) is a present terrorist threat to America, releasing nationwide fear through videos addressed publicly to the president informing him of impending attacks. Pepper Potts (Gwyneth Paltrow) and James ‘Rhodey’ Roads (Don Cheadle) return in this final story, along with new characters from Tony Starks pre-Iron Man past including Aldrich Killian, the founder of A.I.M (Advanced Idea Mechanics) and co-founder of Extremis, a virus which can heal any wound while creating a type of virtual superhuman.

The film had Stark’s classic one liners and witty humor as to be expected. Robert Downey Jr. captured yet again, the character of Tony Stark, showcasing his well-known cocky demeanor while layering on a new Stark, one the audience has not seen before. Throughout the film, Stark experiences anxiety attacks showing a weakness audiences didn’t expect and giving Iron Man a more human element. Ben Kingsley gave a fantastic performance as The Mandarin, sure to be a character not easily forgotten. With that being said, the character of Aldrich Killian should have been developed more and given a stronger purpose in the movie. He was underwritten, which affected the movie in a negative way.

The story line focused heavily on the romance between Iron Man and Pepper Potts, which seemed a little odd considering Potts was not much of a character in the previous films. Trying to create emotion in Tony Stark, going back to the beginning when Stark was a party guy and focusing on how he gets over it just seemed redundant.

Sadly, this movie didn’t quite live up to the expectations set by the previous movies. After seeing the movie, fans are left a little disappointed considering the

Continued in Iron Man on page 18
VVC softball hopes to score big for next season

By Alexandra Roland
RamPage Reporter

Victor Valley College’s softball team finished the season with a record of 10-25. Coach Donell Thomas is not pleased with this season, but is excited for the improvements for next year.

VVC won the last game against Rio Hondo on April 19 by 4-3 to close out the season. Thomas hopes to break even for next year and plans on making more improvements to make that happen by finding new members and will be teaching classes until then. They have already been out working on finding new recruits to join the Rams recently.

“We’re looking for athletic players and athletes with character and talent. If you get more character to buy into the mission of the program, you get people who will work harder,” said Thomas.

One obstacle this season was some minor injuries such as sore shoulders and hand injuries. Shortstop Courtnie Johnson broke her hand during the last game diving for a ball and still played the rest of the game; although she was unaware her hand was broken at the time. Despite the injury, she will be returning next season.

“The team did alright this season, but we could have been less lazy in practice,” said outfielder Marissa Amaya.

Thomas says the pitching this season started out weak, but progressively improved throughout the year. They did struggle with games because of

A foul season for the Rams baseball

By Chelsea Hartshorn
RamPage Reporter

Victor Valley College’s baseball streak has yet to make it off the bench after a 36 game season. For the third season in a row they have accumulated very few wins and have yet to make the playoffs. The team ended with a losing streak of 17 games.

“They are out here for the right reasons,” said Coach Beltran.

Coaching VVC’s Baseball team since January 2011, Jesus Beltran does what he can to make each season a win and each player a winner. It may not always be on the field, however.

“Academically, the teams GPA has sky rocketed,” said Beltran.

The 4-32 record this season does not show improvement over last season, but the effort is apparent. Despite the poor season, five sophomore players have been scouted and two to three are moving on to a four-year university. That means new spots to fill on the roster.

In Dec. 2012, Rudy Jimenez began his first year with the Victor Valley College Baseball team. Jimenez plays shortstop and pitcher. He pitched 11.2 innings and had a batting average of .244 for the season. Quitting his full time job to enroll at VVC and join the baseball team was the first step toward Jimenez’s dream. Besides baseball, Jimenez wants to get a degree and go to a bigger school. He anticipates the team will improve.

“We expect to be better next season,” Jimenez said.

VVC’s baseball team continued meeting after their last game on April 26 against San Bernardino Valley. Nearly the entire team came to a practice on the field a week later.

“A lot of guys want to keep getting work in,” said Beltran.

Despite players’ inability to keep to the team, Beltran strives for performance in his players. Students leaving VVC contribute to the team’s struggle every year. Additionally, turnover in the coaching team compounds the problem.

“It’s hard to keep guys here,” said Coach Beltran.
Women’s tennis optimistic after faulty season

By Kylie Foster
RamPage Reporter

This tennis season at Victor Valley College was a hit for many reasons, all of which have nothing to do with victory or defeat. The women’s tennis team are a shining example that winning is not everything. Even if the matches resulted in a loss, the team never gave up its winning spirit.

“It’s difficult not to measure success based upon wins and losses, but this season that’s not what it was all about. I wanted the girls to enjoy the sport, have fun, and improve individually. It was a success to me watching all of them improve and achieve individual goals,” said head coach Kara Jenkins.

As the Women’s Tennis coach at VVC, she focused her attention on giving her players the best season possible, whether or not they won matches. Coach Jenkins’ main goal was for her girls to enjoy the sport and build team spirit. Overall, how much her girls improved as individuals and the camaraderie built among the members was the most important.

“One thing that’s hard as a coach is, you can’t make players have team spirit, but this year that definitely wasn’t a problem. They supported each other from day one and even went to other sporting events as a team to cheer on their fellow athletes,” said Coach Jenkins.

This season also highlighted the talents of one team member in particular. As the team’s new MVP, Mariano plans to use this help and support of her team.

Mariano was the team's number one singles player.
Photo by Todd Hadler, Sports Co-Editor

Mariano spoke of her teammates and the camaraderie built among the members. “My team this year is the nicest, most positive team I have ever been on! If I was ever down on myself, they would be there to bring me back up. I really couldn’t have asked for a better team,” said Mariano.

Mariano later went on to achieve the title of conference MVP. Mariano plans to use this achievement to push her to go further next year and earn a scholarship to a university. She and her doubles partner, Deziree Cornejo both went undefeated. This earned them conference Doubles Champions.

“Coach Jenkins was out there every day working with us and helping us improve our game. I am so happy with how this season ended and I look forward to an even better next season,” said Mariano.

Coach Jenkins has also loved working with the VVC athletic department. With her top three players expected to return and looking to recruit from local high schools, her strategy is to build a more competitive team. The Women’s Tennis team will be placed in a new conference next season. She is looking forward to seeing how the new team will compete next season.

Gatsby from page 13

ten and poorly handled screenplay by Luhrmann and Craig Pearce. What’s left is a very lackluster performance from DiCaprio.

The supporting cast suffers from this same fate as well. Mageuire gives a very adequate and mediocre portrayal as the film’s narrator Nick; which, for a character that is essentially a bystander to the events of the story, is a pivotal role that is brought down by shoddy writing.

The film’s score is a collaborative effort produced by Jay-Z and features well known artists within the indie music scene. This modern aesthetic touch to the jazz era setting is an interesting concept but is ultimately nothing more than obtuse and asinine, serving as yet another garish distraction from its story.

Luhrmann is exactly the wrong person to adapt the delicately crafted and introspective nature of Fitzgerald’s timeless classic. The elaborate production design and blowout visuals are what were so glaringly wrong with the film; its heightened reality overshadows its characters who are interesting enough to carry the movie alone without the use of over-the-top effects.

“The Great Gatsby” is a very disappointing film that seems to have had the life sucked out of it. Sterile, over-polished and visually assaulting, it can’t help but fall short of its otherwise compelling story.

Earnest from page 12

“I really just wanted to see if I could act,” said Lopez.

The Science major who is in his second year at VVC has had no theater experience until this year and he has already garnered attention from fellow castmates and Director John Rude.

“He has a real natural talent. It has been really interesting to see his growth,” said Rachell Hearne who plays his love interest Cecily Cardew.

However superficial the characters are, you find yourself rooting for them by the end of the play to end up with one another. That may have something to do with the actors. The cast brought a wonderful energy to the stage and had the crowd laughing throughout the entire show. It was clear that they built camaraderie with one another.

“We got along exceptionally well. I’ve loved working with these people,” said Samantha Hall.

Rude kept to the authenticity of the play performed the way Oscar Wilde intended. “The Importance of Being Earnest” has been an audience favorite throughout history. Oscar Wilde most notably called the play “A trivial comedy for serious people.” Rude and his cast have portrayed just that in humorously making a mockery of high society in the most delightful way.
Work out at your own risk

By Gabriel King
Senior Staff Writer

Getting hurt at the gym was the very last thing that Victor Valley College student Alexa Libby was expecting when she clocked in to get her hours at the gym.

Libby got injured while she was working out on the bicycle because the right foot strap was not replaced so when she was getting off of the machine the pedal hit her and opened her up she was bleeding and it was all because of broken gym equipment at VVC.

She was told by gym staff to report the injury and she did.

“They disinfected it and put a band aid on it, that’s all,” said Libby.

Nearly all students at VVC students are required to take a physical education class and be eligible to transfer and get a degree. The VVC gym does have many machines to help students get ready for swimsuit season. They now have educational videos that teach students about the importance of fitness and how it can help a person’s health.

There are some machines that are busted and there are some machines that do not even work at all. There are also improper replacements for machines. The triceps machine uses a weight holder to hold the machine seat in place instead of the actual seat holder. It is already bent from its improper use a possible hazard if it breaks. The triceps machine also has bad handle bars, which is noticeable by students.

“The grip bars are missing and come off the triceps machine,” said Libby.

One of the pectoral machine’s weight catchers has been broke and replaced. It is still not completely fixed because it is not at the right weight. It continues to slam on the ground when pushing the weight, which is a safety concern.

“It’s more of a safety thing. Like what if I do not have long

Continued in Gym on page 18

A little self exploration goes a long way

By Micah Raimo
Special to the RamPage

Being balls deep in Masturbation Awareness Month, many take valuable time out of their days to get to know themselves in an intimate way. Amazingly, the self pleasuring montage can not only help the sexual prowess but increase your overall health with little cons to the list.

What began as a day to protect the right to slap-the-ham, National Masturbation Day was originally observed on May 7 of 1995. Ten years later, the powers that be now recognize May as “National Masturbation Month.”

Despite the ill-conceived notion of shame, the health factors are great. Scientists have not found any physical ailments associated with masturbation.

Maridel Reyes of Men’s Health Magazine lists five health reasons to beat-the-bishop, two of which are to make a man last longer and get harder.

Nicole Beeland’s article in Women’s Health Magazine covers a variety of ways for women to help their bodies become in tune with their fantasies and train themselves to be more sexually aroused through touch. FOX Sexpert Yvonne K. Fulbright lists three perks in her column, “The Health Benefits of Masturbation.” Two involve helping to relieve menstrual cramps while the third helps relieve chronic back pain.

There is a saying amongst the lady folk: men are like microwaves; press a few buttons and they are good to go. Women, on the other hand, are like ovens; they take a while to heat up. Giving your lady friend a little extra touch here and there adds to the explosion factor later on.

Author Anne Hooper devotes a whole chapter in handling yourself in her book “Ultimate Sex.” Through a combination of exercises and techniques, a person can raise their own orgasm scale. Everything from female squats to pelvic lifts has been regimented for women.

For men, Hooper uses a meditation approach to enhance the orgasmic pleasure. Grounding (a technique that pulls out the negative energies from the body and replaces it good energies from nature) and pelvic circling (a yoga technique) are used to help the man find his center.

These techniques help a person learn their likes and dislikes of erotic touch. Mutual masturbation in turn, also helps one person communicate their desires to their partner. Since everyone has a little devil inside that likes to be caressed, it’s a good idea to explore-her-bush for that extra pop.

Before engaging in a co-pleasing session with your love buddy, remember the wisdom of “National Lampoon’s Van Wilder” and “Always check the quality of the turf before stepping out onto the field.”

Hooper’s “Ultimate Sex” and “Anne Hooper’s Kama Sutra” both devote sections on erotic touch and massage. Her version explains how double-knuckling can prolong the sexual experience. In other words, a little attention goes an even longer way. After all, what is shameful about having someone else treat you the way you want to be treated?

Unfortunately, society has not gotten over the shame factor. The comedy associated with the myths of pounding-the-pomegranate seems a bit a wild. Everything from myths of blindness to a gateway to celibacy was thrown around to frighten the public. Some of the myths still float around today but are only bound to affect the ignorant and naive.

Out of all of the research conducted, there are few cons to this momentary pleasure except for the extreme loss of lotion and napkins. In fact, the harm is not in the act of masturbation but in the over indulgence.
He chose to make a difference. Chose to get a degree. To learn new skills. And it was all made possible by the National Guard.

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Iron Man from page 13

hype. With action sequences that just appear to have been randomly thrown in, “Iron Man 3” seemed more like a comedy with a few action scenes.

Although the action scenes were random and incongruent to the story line, the “barrel of monkeys scene” where Iron Man does his big superhero rescue and unrealistically saves all in danger was very entertaining to the eye. Throughout the movie, Iron Man’s suit blends in well, not showing any form of CG animation and looking very realistic.

Shane Black, writer and director of “Iron Man 3,” created a humorous threequel with a twist leaving audiences stunned, and wondering what is going to happen next. Black, known for his screenplay of “Lethal Weapon,” takes “Iron Man” into a darker depth than ever before.

Being a new director to the trilogy, Black tries to keep truer to the comics in the final installa-

Gym from page 16

enough legs, how am I suppose to catch it because it does not go down all the way down? You can get hurt like that,” said gym member Ricardo Cristobol.

The abdominal machines are missing straps to secure a lifter’s feet in place. They also have pads where lifters feet can be tucked behind them so they can work out the abdominal and other areas.

“I noticed something wrong with the machine,” said VVC student Sierra Chatterton.

A work out machine where you do sit-ups is not properly weighted down to the ground, it is only held down by weights which is dangerous and lifters can have too much weight and fall down and get seriously injured.

Some machines are never used because they do not work right. One being the Multi-neck machine, where a lifter positions there head on three pads and moves there head back and forth. It slides around the lifters head and the lifter can slam there head into the metal machine; it’s never being used because it is not really safe and lifters do not have the knowledge to use the machine.

Another machine that works out the arms and neck has not been fixed and since it is broken a lifter can get hurt on it.

“Some handlebars are slipping off the machine and that can be a problem,” said Julia Bien on the broken equipment in the gym.

There are more problems with the gym. It is dirty and carelessness can hurt lifters. There is spit and weights left in improper places. Everyone is responsible for keeping the gym clean. To prevent hazards the gym must replace broken equipment or students will continue to get hurt.

Softball from page 14

pitching that was not so strong, but Thomas said they worked through it and got better.

Every team has its downfalls, but VVC’s softball team still had their shining moments. Thomas is proud of the versatility and dedication from her core players. Some players needed to switch positions and adapted well.

Thomas’s proudest moment of the season was the last game of the season where they won by only one or two points.

“It was a pretty close game and good competition on both sides, but some of our players stepped up and really showed their talent that day,” said Thomas.

Since try-outs are not allowed in California Community Colleges, Thomas is out with her team recruiting new players at high schools talking to seniors and their coaches. She compares the process of picking the players like an interview process. They watch how the people play and choose the strongest candidates over time.

“I’m looking forward to next year. I’m sad that my sophomores are leaving but excited to see what colleges they go to,” said Thomas.

There will be a class held this summer starting June 17 from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. The class is Athletic 127 P.E. Thomas encourages people to come join the class and recommends that people take weight training as well if they are interested in joining the team.
The Swing Vote: The Untapped Power of Independents by Linda Killian (left)

Representing Black Music Culture: Then, Now, and When Again? By William C. Banfield (right)

I Know Who You Are and I Saw What You Did: Social Networks and the Death of Privacy by Lori Andrews

A Strange Wilderness: The Lives of the Great Mathematicians by Amir D. Aczel (left)

The Student Athlete’s Guide to Getting Recruited: How to Win Scholarships, Attract Colleges and Excel as an Athlete by Stewart Brown

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