Powering forward into the future

By Chelsea Hartshorn
RamPage Reporter

Temporary fencing has blocked Victor Valley College students from parking in lot 11 and the northern section of lot 12. These lots are currently closed for construction of two solar covered parking structures that are anticipated to be finished just before the fall semester, according to Director of Facilities, Construction and Contracts, Steve Garcia. “The work is scheduled to be completed Aug. 8,” said Garcia.

Construction materials and equipment are being stored in front of the Child Development Center on the north side of campus (building 12) and by the Administration Annex Building on the west side (building 10).

Continued in Solar on page 3

Accreditation Live! educates campus

By Kylie Foster
RamPage Reporter

In order to inform the community of Victor Valley College’s efforts to be taken off of probation, faculty members held a public forum event on May 13 called “Accreditation Live!”

Hosted and moderated by Dr. Kaiser, a faculty member at VVC, the event allowed audience members to ask questions about the accreditation efforts and receive direct answers from four panelists, consisting of Executive Vice President Peter Allan, Dr. Lisa Harvey, G.H. Javaheripour, and Claude Oliver.

“I hope that this event provided a forum and illustrated that.VCC only has three AA-T and three AS-T programs implemented. These include Administration of Justice, Communication Studies, Early Childhood Education, History, Mathematics, and Sociology. In addition, Psychology and English to-transfer degrees are being created. All new AA-Ts and AS-Ts must be approved by the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office. The Office of Instruction within the Chancellor’s office has been, and remains, understaffed.

Continued in Degree on page 3

Degree with a guarantee

By Nicole Stacey
RamPage Reporter

The Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act (SB 1440) will guarantee students following an Associate of Arts to Transfer or Associate of Science to Transfer admission into the California State University system effective in the winter/spring 2014 semester.

Prior to SB 1440, transferring Victor Valley College students would require 60 semester units or 90 quarter units in one of two general education patterns.

The new transfer Associate degrees are intended to provide a similar educational background for students entering a California State University as a junior.

“Where it becomes more crucial is lately the CSUs are closing their winter/spring semester,” said Counselor/Articulation Officer Pamela James.

Students who have fulfilled either the Interssegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC), or California State University General Education (CSU GE) pattern are still able to transfer in the fall.
While I can say it does in a way sadden me to say goodbye to the RamPage, I also leave on a happy note. I’m glad I can walk away from this publication knowing that it is headed in a good direction for the future and knowing that I, in part, helped get it there. Our student newspaper made a huge launch into the growing online aspect of the journalism industry. This will no doubt bring our paper up to the standards of many major publications. Behind the scenes this was a long process, as we started work on the website long before I took the EiC position. Building a website from scratch, completely scrapping it and rebuilding it, then scrapping that and building it through a new web design site can eat up a lot of time as you can imagine. On top of that, we had to also put out a newspaper every two weeks. Our staff who has stuck through all this is one dedicated team.

It is true what they say about this line of work. You need to develop somewhat of a thick skin. Our staff experienced one of the hardest news stories we’ve had to report on in the RamPage at the end of last year, and we all learned a lesson not only in news reporting and covering such a delicate topic such as suicide, but lessons in humanity. I think we all grew as journalists as well as human beings that day.

Whether they’ve been here for five years or this is their first semester, we all continuously learn new things every day. I’d like to thank those who support our publication on campus. Not only is the newspaper good for these students who take the journalism classes, but we strive to provide unbiased news for the campus and the community. The benefit of writing for our student publication is that we do have a bit of a cushion to fall on. We are students, and this is a learning environment and our stories are only as good as the information we are provided. Nothing hits you harder than that first email regarding an article that you spent countless hours working on trying to make it right. As we learn this profession, we learn how to be as resourceful as we can, but there are times when we may not get it right. The important thing is that we are always willing to admit a fault, correct it then learn from it. That is what makes us better reporters in the future.

I would like to thank all those faculty staff, board members and students who support our newspaper’s continued presence on campus. The unwavering support we receive is what I’m sure has kept us here as long as we’ve been. I’d also like to thank those who have understanding compassion for our first time reporters who nervously walks into an interview. We owe a lot to our current advisor Nick Hartman, who came to us in the middle of a difficult time as has put so much of his own blood sweat and tears into our success. Finally my staff who has worked tirelessly these past two semesters even if I was sometimes a difficult boss, has carried this paper. I’d be nowhere without my managing editor Garrett Johnston’s balance of power. I walk away not so sad to say goodbye and not worried about the future of the RamPage, I am confident that this paper will only continue on the ladder of success. It may be the end of my journey with the RamPage but it is only another fresh start with a long road ahead.”

—Kelli McGurk
Editor-in-Chief

Letter from your editor

Ready to start your future in journalism? Fall 2013
Join the VVC RamPage
VVCramPage.org – Send interest letters to VVCramPage@gmail.com

RAMPAGE STAFF
Spring 2013

Editor-in-Chief:
Kelli McGurk
Managing Editor:
Garrett Johnston
Assistant Managing Editor:
Tanya Patterson
News Editor:
Ashlee Dubach
Features Editor:
Kristen Martin
Entertainment Editor:
Daniel Compian
Sports Editors:
Mario Gonzalez, Todd Hadler
Online/Soc. Media Editor:
Daniel Mariano
Senior Writers:
Gabriel King, Ethan McGarvy
Staff Reporters:
Abbie Berg, Rasheta Driver, Kylie Foster, Chelsea Hartshorn, Abram Martinez, Brenda Ortiz, Janice Shore, Alexandra Roland, Nicole Stacey, Jana Squire

Special to the RamPage:
Stacey Sytulek, Photographer
Adviser/Instructor:
Nicholas Hartman

Administration/Faculty/Staff Mentors:
Jennifer Fowlie, Tim Isbell, Scott Muligan, Deanna Murphy, Robert Sewell, Karen Tomlin, Paul Williams

Printing:
Victor Valley College Campus Print Shop

Mission Statement:
The Victor Valley College RamPage is a student-run newspaper that aims to inform and entertain the Victor Valley Community. We strive to teach and preserve core journalistic values while supporting the unity of the campus community.

CONTACT INFORMATION
(760) 245-4271 Extension 2773
vvcrampage@gmail.com
www.VVCramPage.org

The RamPage is a newspaper published as an educational exercise and First Amendment Public Forum by students at Victor Valley College in Victorville, Calif.

The views expressed by the RamPage are not necessarily those of VVC, its Board of Trustees, administration, faculty, staff, Associated Student Body Council or students.

The RamPage welcomes press releases, story ideas, letters to the editor, guest articles and guest editorials. Submit proposed items to vvcrampage@gmail.com

VVC's journalism program belongs to the Associated Collegiate Press, the California Newspaper Publishers Association and the Journalism Association of Community Colleges.
Solar from page 1

Deliveries to the site will come from Spring Valley Lake Parkway entrance.

"The construction should not affect the students and staff as the construction is scheduled to take place during the summer session when typically the student population is at its lowest," said Garcia.

VVC students and staff will be notified in advance of power outages, as construction gets close to completion in.

The teams responsible for the new solar structures consist of VVC Facilities, Compass Energy Solutions, SunWize Solar, A&E inspections and Merrill Johnson Testing and Inspection. Each structure will require the work of approximately 20 engineers. Standard precautions and safety will be maintained, but there are no specific risk factors for this construction job.

The total project will cost 1.8 million dollars including all parts: solar panels, inverters, steel structure conduits, electrical wiring, lighting, lot striping, electrical car charging stations, and labor for installation. $25,000 will come in return as an incentive from a reduction in utilities and from the California Solar Program. The solar structures will overtake 80 percent of the schools electricity.

"Installing energy efficiencies throughout campus generate savings to the overall general fund balance by the reduction in utility cost. This project supports one of the Accrediting teams’ recommendations by reducing the load on the general fund and working towards fiscal sustainability," said Garcia.

The campus has been undergoing many energy saving endeavors that have, so far, proven themselves. Utility expenses have fallen by close to $500,000 per year with the added adjustments over the past couple years according to Garcia.

"We have taken a very proactive role in letting the campus know of the construction well in advance... The benefits of the end product will far outweigh any inconvenience that might be experienced now," said Garcia.

Degree from page 1

“They’re still working with an office of three,” said James.

After a new AA-T or AS-T is submitted there is a lot of back and forth between VVC and the Chancellor’s office. Any alterations or corrections that are required can cause further delays. However, once the new AA-T or AS-T is approved by the Chancellor’s office it is implemented that same day.

These to-transfer degrees must impact students who are now planning to transfer. Those students with an AA-T or AS-T will receive priority over any students without that degree. The AA-Ts and AS-Ts also include a small boost to the student’s grade point average, giving those with degrees to-transfer another advantage over students without.

The nine full time members of the English department have worked on the English AA-T that has been submitted to the Chancellor’s office for review. According to Associate Professor Bryce Campbell, Ph.D., the Chancellor’s office lacked a model English AA-T. In its place the department used the History AA-T as a guide.

“I’m really excited about it, it's something I think we should have done 10 years ago,” said Campbell.

Dubbed “A Degree with a Guarantee,” the AA-Ts and AS-Ts are designed to ensure transfer from a California community college to a CSU.

“It’s not always to the school of your choice,” said Transfer Counselor Lorena Ochoa.

Students denied by their CSU of choice, with an AA-T or AS-T, will find that one denial is not the end of the road. According to Ochoa, the school issuing the denial may send applications along to other CSUs that will admit the student, ideally within the same area.

The new program has also added to the existing responsibilities of VVC counselors. This includes transfer workshops still being held throughout this month.

“We just have to be informed as counselors,” said Ochoa.

Letter to the editor

After reading the article in the Rampage, I was very surprised to see the article [“VVC honored for going green”] describing all the hard work for this award being done by the Agriculture & Natural Resources department. The application for this award was applied for by the Facilities construction department. The basis for the award was acknowledging the work that has been completed on the one Megawatt solar system, the campus lighting retrofit, the solar covered parking at the Apple valley site, new District wide web based energy management system, Campus Boiler replacement, tying additional campus buildings into the central plant, Campus drought tolerant landscaping, etc.

The facilities department is implementing the savings by design work on the upcoming Health / Science building via a contractual agreement with the Design build contractor.

The award itself was for leadership for the campus sustainability program as a whole. The management team of GH Javaheripour, Dr. O’Hearn and the Board of Trustees guided , approved and made these projects possible. Not to mention the M&O department who work every day on these types of projects. Working with the contractors educating them on our systems working with them through implementation and eventually owning and operating these improvements to the campus.

—Steve Garcia, Director of Facilities, Construction and Contracts

News in Brief

Victor Valley College President/Superintendent Christopher O’Hearn has been on a requested leave of absence since Monday May 22 when VVC Vice President Peter Allan was officially introduced as acting President/ Superintendent.

O’Hearn has been under some scrutiny regarding the college’s accreditation problems, and it was announced at a board meeting in Dec. that his contract will not be renewed this year. O’Hearn is not commenting on his specific reasons for the leave of absence, but the leave is reportedly scheduled until June 30, which when his contract will expire.

Photo courtesy of vvc.edu
Students pay to print

Where does the money go?

By Ethan McGarvey
Senior Staff Writer

The Victor Valley College recently adopted a new pay-to-print program that now charges students for printing pages in the Advanced Technology Center (ATC) building. The main concern for VVC students is why now and where does the money go?

“We were trying to look at it from every angle, every way we could save money, and reduce the expenses of waste. We don't have a problem with people using and printing what they need, that wasn't the issue. The issue was seeing a pile of paper sitting in a corner,” said Executive Dean of Technology and Information Resources, Frank Smith.

Previously, the amount of pages that students were allowed to print was set at a maximum of ten. The problem was that someone had to make sure that students did not exceed the amount and some students actually needed more pages than what was allowed. With the pay-to-print program being implemented for roughly three months now, the college has already seen results.

“The amount of paper being wasted in the ATC, was stacks a day. There is a reduction of paper waste anywhere from 30 to 60 percent.”

“The minimum deposit amount was based on a couple things. There's a cost for credit card transactions that have to be applied. Every time you do a deposit with a credit card you will have a fee. That's why we said $20 maximum because you will still have the same fee,” said Smith. “We are trying to offer as much flexibility as possible. We know there are some people who do not have a credit card or ATM card. We know that is a problem and it is something we are looking into.”

The issue with printing large amounts of pages and dealing with waste is not just a problem in the ATC building; the library reference desk is also having the same problem. Since the library is open to the public, not just to VVC students, the college is looking into dealing with possible solutions. The pay-to-print program will be evaluated in about a year, and ideas of expanding the program further are already being discussed.

“Eventually, if we expanded it, you would be able to print to anywhere from anywhere on the campus,” said Smith. “We are actually looking into doing wireless printing right now, so you could print from your laptop.”
VVC continues down the campaign trail

Photos courtesy of Robert Sewell
By Kelli McGurk  
Editor-in-Chief

As Victor Valley College students are in the final week of the Spring semester that can only mean one thing: FINALS. For many students, final exams are a make or break. Whether you are in your first semester or only need to pass these last few classes to complete your degree or transfer program, this is most likely a stressful time. There are many tips on how to make this time easier on your brain and body (stress can take a physical toll, affecting your overall health).

Huffingtonpost.com has an interesting list of things college students can do to ease the stress of finals week and ace all your tests. Some items on the list are obvious such as finding a quiet place to study, forming study groups with peers, and the most important one every professor will tell you from the first day of class: don’t wait until the last minute and cram. While studying in chunks and finding several different study areas are somewhat “no brainers” as one might say, there are a couple things on the list that can help students retain and recall information that might not be so obvious.

For example, did you know that certain types of music such as Mozart, stimulates both side of the brain when listened to during study time, and can help retain information? Researchers have found a link between memory recall and tempo. Music following a 60 bpm (beats per minute) pattern are the best to listen to while studying in order to increase the likeliness of learning and remembering the material.

Another unorthodox tip on the list is to drink cocoa. Now, don’t stock your pantry full of delicious Hershey’s chocolates and justify it by telling everyone you learned from me that it will help your education. The raw form of cocoa now labeled as a “super food,” is full of nutrients and antioxidants that can affect your mood and energy. The added sugar in candy bars however, will overpower these affects and only lead to an energy crash. Huffington suggests adding a spoonful of organic cocoa into hot milk, adding cinnamon, espresso and cayenne pepper for the perfect amount of energy.

The various techniques work differently for different people, so it’s also important to consider your own learning style. Some people are visual learners while others do best when reading carefully while taking notes. It’s always important to make sure you have time to rest so pair your study sessions with breaks. It will help you relax and organize your thoughts.

Whether you prefer to study for short intervals every day, or take a full couple days to study then a couple days of break time, getting the sleep and nutrients your body needs is a must. Managing your stress and anxiety during this time can be a determining factor for how well you do. Following tips and advice, while also listening to your own body’s signals, can definitely increase the chances for success; not only in college classes but also in everyday life.

Heard around the lake

What advice could you give students preparing for finals?

“Don’t stress too much about it. Study the night before, don’t try to cram it all in and get sleep.”  
Kaitlin Bourassa

“Start early, try to relax as much as you can and figure out which finals are going to be the harder ones and prepare for them first.”  
Tim Adell

“Work where you are less comfortable when you are cramming and it will help you go faster.”

Bree Schnaubelt

By Janice Shore  
RamPage Reporter
VVC veterans celebrate Memorial Day

--Photos courtesy of Robert Sewell
Lions and Rams poker tournament

By Daniel Mariano
Online/Social Media Editor

Victor Valley College faculty and students gathered in the Spring Valley Lake Community Center’s dining hall to not only play poker, but to help the efforts in raising money for VVC students. Eric Pearson, VVC Performing Arts Center Coordinator and Lions Club secretary, organized the Texas Hold ‘Em Poker tournament to contribute to the Campaign for Classes fundraiser.

After 17 Levels and ten hours of restless playing, the tournament dwindled down from 80 to 9 players.

Everyone surrounding the table stopped talking at the same time and focused their attention to Zybura. Both players have been calling each other out back and forth for almost an hour. And each time, they each backed out against the call.

“Everyone gathered their belongings and began to make their way into the parking lot, eventually making their way home.”

“When the college reached out to the Lions Club about contributing to the Campaign for Classes, we were more than happy to oblige. It’s a great feeling knowing that we can help create new classes and opportunities for VVC students.” said Pearson.

The Lions Club hosts the tournaments monthly on the first Friday at the SVL venue. This particular tournament helped raise funds for the Campaign for Classes by donating 10% of the revenue generated from the buy-in’s.

The Spring Valley Lake Lions Club has been operating for more than 25 years. They utilize their events for various charities. From the Phoenix foundation that helps in supporting families in the time of tragedy with the loss of a loved one to the Aware Push Care Foundation that will be having an event take place on campus at VVC in August. The charity event will be a car show with all proceeds and funds raised from both the event and APC going towards Breast Cancer Awareness.
By Alexandra Roland
RamPage Reporter

Spending a long night studying and watching a marathon of the television show, Hoarders, is what caught respiratory training student Amanda Pearson's interest and pushed her to start up the Clutter for a Cause Rummage Sale. She decided to put the event together to help out the respiratory and nursing programs.

The event was held on May 18 and was put together by the California Nursing Students Association and the Respiratory Training program. Pearson was looking for an event that would interest all people and be a win-win situation for everyone involved.

“We pay for our own graduation...we're trying to make this an annual thing. The next event can help the next graduating class,” said Pearson.

The students received help from the Daily Press and Victor Valley College's Associated Student Body. The biggest part of getting the event recognized was advertisement and the Daily Press donated slots for the event. One way ASB contributed to the event was by passing out and helping make fliers. “ASB helped us out very much. They were very instrumental in the rummage sale,” said Werner Zander respiratory training student.

All of the items for the sale filled up roughly five trucks, not including Zander's and a trailer. Not only did they have the rummage sale, but they also participated in the Campaign for Classes the same weekend.

Although there was plenty of work put into the rummage sale, they made sure to keep it fun and had a sign-making party the night previous to the event. The group did their best to turn a somewhat stressful situation into a fun time.

According to Pearson, the turnout was successful and the team had a good time working on it together. Her favorite moment of the event was getting to look at all of the old stuff such as a waffle maker from the 40's, old wine glasses, silverware, retro looking clothes, and much more.

“It's interesting to see how times and technology has changed,” said Pearson.

According to garage sale cow.com, Rummage sales originated possibly around the 16th century when people would have extra cargo on ships and would auction it off. People. They took place on docks when there were unclaimed or damaged goods. By the 1890s, rummage sales became a regular thing for charities like churches or parks. In the 1970s, they were considered very popular and held regularly by people to sell their unwanted goods and make some extra cash.

It's estimated that rummage sales make up to 2 billion dollars annually.

Even though the respiratory training students and the CNSA didn't make 2 billion dollars, they averaged out at about 1,400 dollars between the two groups and donated the leftover items to Goodwill. Pearson has high hopes of making this event an annual occurrence to help future students pay for their gradations.

Rummage sales started on docks when there were unclaimed or damaged goods. By the 1890s, rummage sales became a regular thing for charities like churches or parks. In the 1970s, they were considered very popular and held regularly by people to sell their unwanted goods and make some extra cash.

By Rasheta Driver
RamPage Reporter

Tyler Spotville, a 21 year old sophomore at Victor Valley College, is currently being scouted by different professional and college teams. According to Spotville and his coaches he is currently being scouted by the Seattle Mariners and the Colorado Rockies. Spotville has the highest batting average on the Rams baseball team and the coaches say he is currently the only one being scouted.

Spotville grew up in Rialto and started playing baseball when he was four. He attributes the encouragement his mother gave to him as to why he pursue it. In the beginning, Spotville always said he had a natural work ethic towards baseball.

“It’s a game of evolving; you can get better every day. I got better as I got older,” said Spotville.

In addition to his success with sports, Spotville also is working and going to school full time. Assistant Coach Irvin Bounds explains how he was not surprised that Spotville was being scouted as he was disciplined and had four of the five prospects (power, hitting/hitting ability, defense, and speed). He describes Spotville as always having a strong work ethic which positively influenced the team.

“He came out with a different mentality; he was set on going to the next level. He was here on a mission and encouraged others to follow,” said Coach Bounds.

Chad Howard, 19 year old Communication major and baseball player, describes his teammate as a hardworking and motivational member to the team. He deems Spotville as a motivational figure to himself and the team.

One of Spotville’s inspirations comes from his favorite team, the Los Angeles Dodgers. He’s loved them since he was a child when his grandfather gave him his first major league game tickets to a Dodger’s game. His biggest motivation is his fiancee Melody Sapp, a 22-year-old former VVC volleyball player, and his 10-month-old daughter. He also has another child on the way, who he is hoping will a boy.

Spotville says he not only has the Rockies and the Mariners scouting him, but many other teams from local colleges such as Cal State San Bernardino and ones farther away such as Kansas (Wesleyan) University, home of the Coyotes as well.

Spotville maintains if he were scouted by any college, he would love for it to be Arizona State University because of its’ connection to famed baseball player Barry Bonds. Spotville has yet to decide on what he will do or what team he will play for if he plays at all, which may be good news for VVC because his coaches agree they wish they could have more time with him.

“We wish him the best and expect big things from him. You can never replace a Tyler Spotville but we can try,” said head Coach Jesus Beltran.
What sailor life taught this desert rat

By Samantha McGurk
Special to the RamPage

The work hours are awful; the labor is sometimes unbearable and your superiors often times scream insults at you two inches away from your face. This is not the ideal job I had always envisioned for my life to say the least. But this is the path I took and if I had to do it all over again, I wouldn’t change a thing.

When I graduated from Hesperia High School in 2006, I was overjoyed to have been accepted to Vanguard University, my college first choice. I spent 2 wonderful, exciting years there having the time of my life as a college freshman.

Attending a private university however was taking its toll on the financial stability of my family. I could not continue my education knowing that it was dragging my parents into debt. My part time job did little to help.

Around this time, my grandmother became severely ill. She was living by herself in her home, so I left my dorm and my educational path to live with and take care of her. The following months were the hardest I’ve ever endured as I watched her slowly wither and pass away in April 2008.

After that, I knew I had to go back to school. My grandma always wanted me to and blamed herself for my dropping out. With the financial situation even worse than before after paying for funeral and burial expenses, I just did not know how I was going to be able to do that.

I was working at The Home Depot feeling like my life was going nowhere fast. I had a desire to just leave my old life behind and see the world, not only for myself but for my grandmother who never got that chance.

Joining the United States Navy had been an option I considered after high school. It came back to my mind after learning more about the Post 9/11 GI Bill. I wanted to experience the world and finish my education—this was the perfect way to do both.

Now that my 4 years of active obligation is nearing it’s end next year, I am looking forward to my future in pursuing a career in photojournalism. Victor Valley College is my first option, obviously being a native of the High Desert. I feel proud to have served my time for a country that will give me an education in return.

Traveling to several countries during my years of service, and seeing what true poverty looks like has made me humble and grateful for what I do have. My family’s financial woes are nothing compared to the slums of India or the Philippines where people live hoping that the muddy tarps and tin roofs would withstand another day, or going two or three days without eating and not having clean drinking water. I now realize that being poor in America is very different than poor in a third world country.

What I have learned from my time in the U.S. Navy is how to be a better person, and how I can truly help individuals less fortunate than myself. I am looking forward to getting my education so I can do just that. Our Navy’s core values: Honor, Courage, and Commitment: will forever endure in me as I venture back into my civilian lifestyle.
In honor of the transferring alumni of Victor Valley College, the Transfer Center held the fourth annual Transfer celebration on May 23.

“The purpose is to recognize students for their accomplishment of transferring to a four year university,” said VVC Transfer Center counselor Lorena Ochoa.

Students spent the first half-hour of the event conversing and gathering around with refreshments as they waited for the ceremony to begin. The ceremony commenced with speeches from Lorena Ochoa and Peter Allan, both providing words of encouragement.

“Be persistent because it gets so easy to give up. Your education is the most valuable thing you can have because no one can take it away from you,” said Allan to all the students.

Inspiring stories were also shared by two of VVC’s alumni, both of which have overcome personal obstacles and intend to move forward in their journey to success. Brian Feliciano, who is transferring to University of California Los Angeles, has had to deal with plenty of struggles with his family. He came to VVC in 2011, right out of high school and joined ASB.

Intending to achieve a degree in Accounting, Muchu Lan has had to struggle with adapting to a new environment. She came to the U.S. in 2006, and spent her first three years attending Barstow College, during which time she struggled not only with a language barrier but also understanding they way colleges operate.

Once the speeches reached the end, awards were then given in recognition of the students’ status as transferring to their schools of choice.

Michael Lara, a transfer who is working towards an International Studies major with an emphasis in Business is more than happy to be taking the next step in his education.

“The feeling of transferring can be described with an imaginary journey pathway to the sunlight called success. Along the way, the recognition feeling is those friends that are along side the path cheering and launching you onto the next platform of accomplishments. Thus, creating an effect not like any other,” said Lara.

Overall, the event offered plenty of inspiring moments to the students, as well as their friends and family. Once the ceremony ended students were given the opportunity to speak with representatives from Cal State and UC colleges to discuss upcoming steps in the transfer process.

“Be Prepared and achieve good grades. Visit universities and utilize the schools sources, like the counselors. It will make your experience a lot smoother,” said Ochoa.

For those who are interested or would like more information regarding transferring, the Transfer Center is located at the Counseling and Administration Bldg. 55. Lorena Ochoa may be contacted at (760)245-4271 ext. 2713.

The Victor Valley College Veteran’s Club held a fundraising carwash and pancake breakfast on May 18, with the proceeds going towards scholarships for VVC students who have served in the military.

Signs at the fund-raiser read “Fill Our Boots for Veterans” and “Donate for our Books.”

“[The Veteran’s Club] has made a big difference... I would be lost in the sauce without them,” said Jessica Lipe, a VVC student and member of the Veteran’s Club. “They’ve helped with guidance, socializing and integrating back into the civilian lifestyle.”

Members of the club set up outside of Johnny D’s Restaurant on Bear Valley Rd. with wash rags, towels and buckets of soapy water. Tickets for the carwash pre-sold for $10 per car. Those who bought a pre-sale ticket received a car wash and an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast.

Washes were not only available to people who bought a pre-sale, however. Passers-by were also offered a scrub down. Many people chose to donate more than the minimum and others simply stopped by to drop a few dollars into the pair of combat boots, which sat upon the table to collect donations.

“Right now, our biggest focus is showing the students the direct results of the things we’re doing,” said President of the Veteran’s club Dave McConnell. “Today, we’re already raised enough for two $250 scholarships.”

Veteran’s Services were reinstated at VVC in 2011, when the school re-opened its Veteran’s window. Since then, it has been an integral part of the process for incoming veterans looking to receive an education. The window expedites the process of admission and assists students in finding services that they qualify while attending the college.

“The need was there. Especially now, with the vets coming back from Iraq and Afghanistan, they’re coming back with PTSD and they can’t stand in line. Having that window open definitely helps them out, you know. It makes them feel like the college is more veteran friendly,” said Wesley James, one of the founding members of Veteran’s Services.
Animals on the mic: Vocal Zoo

By Daniel Compean
Entertainment Editor

A dimly lit Blue Moon neon sign gives some clarity to the densely packed bar. Senses are assaulted and thrown to caution from the otherwise mellow May night as the crowd stands shoulder to shoulder and liquor, amongst other indescribable smells, waft through the air.

There’s a personable, almost intimate quality to the tiny stage as patrons sing in unison to bands performing covers of your usual variety such as “Swing Life Away” by Rise Against. Audience members, all forming circular groups, dizzyly ramble to each other without so much as letting a word in edgewise. Some kid standing too close for comfort licks his lips while he tells his friend he’s smarter on pot. It’s a High Desert crowd; you can’t argue that.

There’s always a certain camaraderie amongst High Desert locals. Whether that’s from an almost Stockholm Syndrome-esque relationship with the High Desert or bonding over their obligatory, mutual love of the ska punk band Sublime, one can’t be too sure.

Regardless, youth culture finds a way to connect that’s unlike any other town. On this particular night, the connection has never felt stronger as local band Vocal Zoo opens their set at Beef ‘O’ Brady’s Sports Bar in Hesperia.

“You need to have a beer in your hand before we play this next song,” the lead singer proclaims as the whole crowd raises their mugs in unison; a telling phrase that indefinitely sets the tone for the night.

The once disinterested crowd absorbed in their own conversation seems overtaken as their attention is now centered on Vocal Zoo performing their unique brand of hip-hop inspired music.

A two-man, genre-blending project between guitarist Jack Paine (Jack Nasty) and vocalist Austin Swift (A Dash), Vocal Zoo know how to operate the stage as evident in their ability to quickly recover from an impromptu dance performance from a less than sober fan. With an eye for performing, these two musicians represent well on-stage creating an almost symbiotic bond with their audience.

Referring to themselves as Witticisms spun and lyrical irony abound, Nasty and A Dash have a sense of humor about them that’s apparent in their mannerisms and overt in their music. With a fun, uncomplicated style, their music brings a light-hearted energy. Not all too dissimilar from their High Desert roots, their music reflects a mixture of nearly every music scene available in Southern California akin to Sublime or The Dirty Heads.

Ruins of Time rocks Riverside

By Gabriel King
Senior Staff Writer

Local band Ruins of Time (ROT) has been making moves towards more exposure and fans. They are moving so fast that they are going to Battle for Warped Tour 2013. And if they win they will get a spot for the 2013 Warped Tour concert series. The success of this High Desert band did not happen overnight.

Eddie Mendez, lead vocalist and songwriter, will be attending Victor Valley College in the fall of 2013. He was one of the founders and now the last remaining member from the original line-up.

“I’ve seen this band go through at least eight band members and now we finally have a good group of guys that want to be here. We are all friends so it makes it fun to play with each other,” said Mendez.

Ruins of Time has been playing shows for over seven years and started from a small garage band playing in friend’s and family’s backyards and garages. They are now playing large scale venues and recording their first full studio album. They have played everywhere in backyards in Barstow, medium venues like the Victor Valley Fairgrounds to huge venues like the world famous Chain Reaction in Anaheim.

Now they will be playing in Battle for Warped Tour 2013. They will be competing for a spot to travel around the country with bands such as August Burns Red, Blessthefall, The Black Dahlia Murder, Best Day Ever and Motion City Soundtrack.

“We have a really great chance of getting to Warped Tour and were confident in our stage presence and performance,” said Joe Ontiveros, guitarist for Ruins of Time and student here at VVC studying to be an electrician.

ROT showed up with their merchandise booth and set-up crew. The band sold the most tickets out of all 8 acts so they
Ruins from page 8

got to pick their own time slot. They chose the third slot which started at 9:50. ROT got a huge crowd reaction and interaction. The audience was jumping around and head banging.

The surprising part of the show was Ruins of Time was the only metal band at the battle. During one of the songs ROT was playing, bassist Danny Thomson’s pick broke into two pieces and dropped to the ground.

“I dropped my pick while we were playing. It broke in two but I was ready for it because at practice I play with my fingers just in case that would happen at a show. Tonight it did,” said Thomson.

Ontiveros was nervous about the show. He just wanted everything to be perfect.

“I know I f**ked up a little but I know my stage performance was amazing,” said Ontiveros while he was taking down his equipment.

The winner was announced until 1:15. Tensions mounted before the announcement of the winners. An exception was made for the night’s battle. There would be three bands moving on to the next round. Third place was the Covina based band “The Grey”, second place was given to Riverside native rapper “Young Fyha”. As the band

Fast 6 changing lanes and shifting gears

By Mario Gonzalez
Co-Sports Editor

If you thought it couldn’t get any better than a 1965 Chevrolet Corvette Grand Sport jumping out of a train or two 2010 Dodge Charger SRT’s dragging a 7x12, 490 pound vault through the streets of Rio, in “Fast Five,” well think again.

After their most recent heist, skimming $100 million from a Brazilian drug lord in “Fast Five,” Dominic Toretto (Vin Diesel) and Brian O’Connor (Paul Walker) along with the rest of their crew of retired professional criminals now live a life of peace, freedom and extravagance.

All of that changes, however, when federal agent Luke Hobbs (Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson) tracks down and convinces them to help him take down a former Special Ops soldier gone rogue, Owen Shaw (Luke Evans).

Accepting Hobbs request, Dom reunites his former clique of international professional criminals as they join together with Hobbs in taking down Shaw.

Director Justin Lin and writer Chris Morgan, believe it or not, have upped the ante and intensity level in their latest installment to the “Fast and Furious” franchise. Cheesy lines, ground and pound fighting, buildings collapsing, hot rides, beautiful woman and a tank nearly destroying everything in its path definitely leads to a good time.

“Fast and Furious 6” ignites with engines roaring and wheels spinning as high performance cars race and chase through the streets of London. Fast and Furious, being known for its dangerous driving and thrilling action-packed scenes, has seemed to increase the thrills and chills on just about both of those with its glorious stunt work and special effect explosions at just about every corner of the way.

What really stands out the most in “Fast 6” is the incredible fight scenes, including one that is shared between Michelle Rodriguez’s Letty and Gina Carano’s Riley (member of Hobbs team). Carano’s, a former MMA fighter, really shows off her skills from inside of the octagon against Rodriguez who is able to keep up with her every step of the way. These two will leave you cringing in your seats as they throw down and put their bodies on the line.

Lin and Morgan have taken the driver seat of this high-octane saga that dates back to 2001. They shift the series into sixth gear and speed into the latest adrenaline-injected installment with twist and action-packed scenes that will leave you at the edge of your seat.

“Fast and Furious 6” speeds by its competition and previous installations without looking back in its rearview mirror. Lin serves justice in “Fast 6” and with an ending to the movie leaving an uproar of cheers from the viewing audience, it is only a wonder what he will bring to the screen next.

Veterans from page 11

Veterans’ Club.

Many veteran students also participate in the school’s Extended Opportunities Programs and Services (EOPS) and Disabled Students Programs and Services (DSPS).

“EPOS, DSPS and the Veteran’s services provide a sort of symbiotic relationship,” said James. “They go hand in hand.”

In addition to the scholarship fundraiser, the Veteran’s Club has been working with the VVC Foundation to set up the Veteran’s Education and Transition Services (VETS), a one-stop assistance center for Veterans who are returning to college. This center would include admissions and counseling services, a computer lab, a book-sharing program and provide student vets with a place to network in an environment tailored specifically for them.

The Veteran’s Club meets every first and third Thurs. at 12:30 p.m. in the SAC. Student vets, friends, family and other supporters are all welcomed to attend. For more information, contact the Veteran’s Club at veterans@student.vvc.edu.
The Dillinger Escape Plan: killing the competition

By Todd Hadler
Co-Sports Editor

The definition of frenetic is fast and energetic in a rather wild and uncontrolled way. That definition applies to The Dillinger Escape Plan’s new album, “One of Us Is the Killer,” but not fully. The first part of the definition is relevant to the album, but The Dillinger Escape Plan are not wild and uncontrolled. They know exactly what they are doing and they are doing it well.

“One of Us Is the Killer,” is the band’s fifth full length album and first on the band’s new label record, Sumerian Records, after fulfilling their contractual obligations with French record label Season of Mist. The album starts off a lot like their debut album, “Calculating Infinity,” in that the first two songs are an all-out mathcore assault on the senses. “Prancer,” and “When I Lost My Bet,” are the band’s first two singles and rightly so as these two songs represent the band’s sound the best. There are parts of these songs, and the whole album for that matter, that really makes your head spin as guitarist Ben Weinman incites chaotic, yet intricate, riffs and drummer Billy Rymer gives one of the most complex drumming performances of the year as the time signatures are almost impossible to keep up with.

The album’s title track slows it down and the band shows their progressive side. This particular song reminds of Mastodon, it shows a proggy side but also midway in the song, the band goes into a straight sludge-y riff. This track also shows the improvement of lead singer Greg Puciato’s singing. The standout point for his singing is in “Nothing’s Funny,” where during the chorus he seems to stretch his singing to the highest limits, almost to a falsetto. However, it is not his singing which stand out in this album. Puciato’s screams compliments the instrumentation perfectly, keeping the same theme of absolute chaos.

There is barely any faults with this album. There is kind of a drop-off towards the end of the album. After the instrumental, “Ch 375 268 277 ARS,” the songs after does not quite live up to the rest of the album. “Magic That I Held You Prisoner,” and “Crossburner,” seem to be filler songs with both of them not really meaning anything or having anything special, even with the latter of those two songs being five minutes long. The album does end on a high note with “The Threat Posed by Nuclear Weapons.” When it comes to lyrics, The Dillinger Escape Plan are not exactly top of the crop.

2013 is proving to be a good year for The Dillinger Escape Plan. “One of Us Is the Killer,” debuted at number 25 on the Billboard 200 chart, with first-week sales at 14,824, which doubles the sales from their last album, “Option Paralysis.”

This is an absolute must have album for 2013. There are parts of this album that could have been better, but this is one of Dillinger Escape Plan’s best albums. If one wants to step outside the box from the usual metal and hardcore, then this is the band and album for you.

The world truly is a beautiful place

By Daniel Compean
Entertainment Editor

The 90s were kind of a bummer. As if bleak Seattle rainstorms and excessive flannel weren’t depressing enough, the 90s deserved nothing more than to distance itself from the happy-go-lucky optimism of 80s popular music by leaning towards cynical disinterest. The 2010s thus far seem eager to emulate this, with more bands going for that depressed apathy so synonymous with 90s alternative music.

The World is a Beautiful Place & I am No Longer Afraid to Die (TWIABP) is a small indie band hailing from Connecticut with a love for the 90s almost equal to their love of absurdly long names. Despite releasing only a handful of EPs over the last several years, TWIABP has quickly become a seminal band in the underground ‘twinkly’ punk music scene and it’s abundantly clear why. The band creates a unique and dense textured sound with multi-layered and heavily effected guitars as well as liberal use of synthesizers, cellos, and trumpets.

TWIABP continues this ‘twinkly’ punk sound with their 2013 debut full-length album “Whenever, If Ever” which quickly became the best-selling album on Bandcamp, an online music store that mainly caters to independent artists.

Combining the atmospheric tendencies of post-rock, in the style of Explosions in the Sky, with the melodic despondence of 90s emo bands like Mineral, “Whenever, If Ever” boasts an impressive and emotional sound unlike any current musical act.

Lyrically simplistic and straightforward in theme, the album largely speaks of universal experiences: about home, suburbia, loss and nostalgia. Atmospheric and breathe, emotionally raw and confessional, the sheer tone of “Whenever, If Ever” encapsulates the feeling of remorseful longing that feels like a 30-minute introspective reflection in an isolation tank.

The slow simmer of the opening track, “blank #9,” is easy to drown in the immersion. The lumbering guitars and sparse drums create a somber exploratory intro that by the second track, “Heartbeat in the Brain,” bursts into life with melodic keyboard accompaniments and layered guitars sprinkled with violins. By the third track, “Fightboat,” the album conjures pop-punk elements without compromising the band’s post-rock slant and musical talent.

The seven-minute closing track, “Getting Sodas,” culminates to a dramatic and emotional climax. With twinkly guitars abound and a steadily growing cadence, the song creates a beautiful buildup that does not fail to impress.

For all their morose and angst, there’s never a sense that TWIABP is ever taking themselves too seriously. With sarcastically titled tracks and almost self-deprecating sense of humor, they seem to be having good time being miserably depressed.

There’s a fundamental irony in how a band titled The World is a Beautiful Place & I am No Longer Afraid to Die is such a throwback to the sardonic 90s, with lyrics obsessing over arrested development and past mistakes. The heavily layered guitars and vocals along with ethereal melodies create a lush sound that gives a modern twist to classic 90s alternative. With blistering shimmer and plenty of catharsis, “Whenever, If Ever” is truly a rich experience.
Vampire Weekend brings life to the city

By Daniel Compean
Entertainment Editor

You have to understand the holistic nature of all things; everything is connected. At least that’s what indie rock band Vampire Weekend would have you believe, who seem to take that turn of phrase pretty seriously.

Incorporating a wide range of influences from – quite literally – all over the world, Vampire Weekend can be difficult to describe in few words. Lead vocalist and guitarist Ezra Koenig has his obvious punk rock influences, but with a dash of traditional African music, synthpop, folk rock, twee pop and general world music thrown in like an acid-induced Simon & Garfunkel fever dream.

Vampire Weekend’s previous albums – “Vampire Weekend” and “Contra” – were met with critical claim in 2008 and 2010 respectively, with their sophomore release, “Contra,” receiving a Grammy nomination for Best Alternative Music Album. In the wake of their newfound success with a largely college aged fanbase, the band has made some serious facelifts to their music. Vampire Weekend’s risk of sacrificing the elements of their claim to fame has more than paid off in their third studio album, and best effort yet, “Modern Vampires of the City.”

This is a grown-up Vampire Weekend. Gone are the jangly hooks of “A-Punk” or the entirety of the poppier-Animal-Collective-cover-bands days of “Contra” for that matter. Vampire Weekend succeeds in transcending their first two records for a more refined and tighter album with vocals and music that seem to flow together effortlessly.

There’s a warm lightness to these songs. More dynamic and more spontaneous, “Modern Vampires of the City” has a sound that’s distinctly more intimate and closer to the ear than past efforts.

While still present throughout the album, the African world beats are largely replaced in favor of an almost American sensibility that would make The Boss slowly nod in approval. Filled with heavenly choirs, the opener, “Obvious Bicycle,” is anchored by slow walking piano chords lending itself to a dream-like quality. When the track’s simple structure opens into the angelic chorus, the effect is hymnlike and hypnotizing. “Step” continues this approach with the inclusion of a spinning harpsichord showing their Grover Washington and Bread inspirations. It’s representative of what is Vampire Weekend’s most delicately crafted album yet.

The sixth track, “Hannah Hunt,” opens with lightly played piano chords as it gives way to Koenig’s soft vocals about a couple on a cross-country road trip. His details are sparse and ambiguous, yet perfectly interwoven within the track’s quiet beauty. In some sense, this track is the pinnacle of Vampire Weekend’s talent being shown best.

The ambiguity of the lyrics is well-suited for the enigmatic charm within “Modern Vampires of the City.” Koenig has managed to create a dichotomy between the melody and lyrics that work effectively in creating an experience that is simultaneously jarring and reassuring. For lyrics that are so melancholic, the album has an oddly gleeful tone with breezy, delicate chord progressions and soft, crooning vocals. An artist that can make one feel happy and content with songs so negative and deprived is something to be lauded.

If everything truly is connect, then “Modern Vampires of the City” makes a strong case. After years of playing around with any, and every, genre within reach, Vampire Weekend is now their own source of influence for future musicians.

Daft Punk is back with a brand new set of memories

By Abram Martinez
RamPage Reporter

The fourth album from Daft Punk, “Random Access Memories” (RAM), is a near perfect album that is topping the UK charts and re-establishing them as the leaders of Electronic Dance Music (EDM).

There are very few household names in EDM. Some might name Skrillex or Deadmau5 if they were asked who their favorite EDM artist, but the world knows who Daft Punk is. They bridged the gap between the once niche genre of dance music a long time ago. The world knows who Daft Punk is, yet in reality, they know next to nothing about Thomas Bangalter or Guy-Man de Homem-Christo.

Both Bangalter and Homem-Christo, the duo that is Daft Punk are worldwide stars but it is the characters that comprise Daft Punk that are famous, not them as men. They are known for their signature metal helmets worn to create a fictional robotic persona and have not been pictured out of helmet since 1995. They choose to remain anonymous to the public and let their robot personas and music speak for themselves.

The opening track to RAM is “Give Life Back To Music,” which seems to be more than a cliché title. It is an open-call to musicians to start putting their heart back into music. “Let the music of your life, give life back to music.” It borrows several rock influences with a guitar synthesized riff and a rolling drum beat during its hook that eventually breaks down into a clap inviting party anthem.

The first and hit-single off of RAM is the Pharrell Williams and legendary producer Nile Rodgers co-written and chart topping track, “Get Lucky.” It is a catchy tune that is reminiscent of any number of Michael Jackson 80’s era tunes that proclaims “We’re up all night to get lucky.”

The main differences between RAM and other Daft Punk releases is that this album is not of the current dance record trend – it is what some would describe as easy listening or ‘commercial’ friendly. Make no mistake, you can and will dance to this album, but it is not laced with heavy kick beats, soul samples, and lyrics that make them radio friendly.

Another standout track is the song “Instant Crush” featuring synthesized harmonic vocals from The Strokes’ frontman Julian Casablancas which could be described as possibly the most heart-felt track of the album. RAM pays homage to the disco sound of the late 70’s and

Continued in Daft Punk on page 16
In the wake of the critical acclaim and commercial success that was “My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy,” Kanye West has some hype to live up to. Slated for release on June 18, “Yeezus” has the potential to exceed its predecessor.

Set to feature artists such as Daft Punk, Skrillex, Chief Keef, Pusha T, Odd Future, and more, “Yeezus” has been described as “dark” and “very raw” showing a turn towards a stylistic shift.

Details about the album are still vague, but two songs, “New Slaves” and “Black Skinhead,” were performed on Saturday Night Live. Loud and relentless, “Black Skinhead” certainly shows a more aggressive Kanye with shouting vocals and destructive production elements. Whether the Chicago rapper can exceed expectations remains to be seen, but so far, “Yeezus” has shown to be a more than promising release for 2013.

The Weeknd is a man of few words, so it only seems fitting that little has been said of his debut LP “Kissland.” A Toronto-based R&B singer, this will be the first full-length album released by The Weeknd who thus far has released three EPs.

Numbing and lyrically toxic, as evident in the release of the title track “Kissland,” The Weeknd has a certain engaging mystique to his music.

With ambivalence and beautifully cunning nihilism, The Weeknd is sure to bring the same level of craft present in his EPs to a full-length.

Danny Brown basks in self-satisfaction in his transformation from no-name to Detroit’s top rapper since Eminem. “Old” is the upcoming third studio album, set for release some time in August, following Brown’s experimental 2011 concept release, “XXX.”

The new LP is expected to feature ASAP Rocky, Schoolboy Q, Charlie XCX, and indie synth-pop band Purity Ring; the latter of which is expected to contribute beats.

In an interview with Fuse, Brown explained that although “Old” won’t be as consistently humorous as “XXX,” fans will still be pleasantly surprised by the outcome.

With the Cleveland indie rock band’s 2012 LP still fresh in memory, it’s a bit surprising to see them release a new album so soon. However, frontman Dylan Baldi announced that he has already written much of the follow-up LP “Body Music” for a release this fall.

Their 2012 album, “Attack on Memory,” was a sonic throwback to 90s post-hardcore and grunge. With a keen eye for melodic hooks and emotionally charged lyrics, Baldi has expressed a desire to move past this style. Expect “Body Music” to be "less melodic" and more “noisier and straightforward” reflecting an influence of early punk.

List compiled by Daniel Compean, Entertainment Editor

Photos courtesy of last.fm
6 MGMT

Three years ago, MGMT rattled fans with the release of their sophomore album “Congratulations” which dropped any reprise of their breakthrough hit “Kids” for neo-psychedelic leanings. With their upcoming June self-titled release, lead vocalist and guitarist Andrew VanWyngarden has said that the band has decided to stick with that direction with the album being described as sounding close to “Congratulations.”

With a heavy R.E.M. influence along with Aphex Twin and house influences, “MGMT” is looking to turn into an album that won’t be easily accessible for fans “Kids.” However, it’ll prove to be an interesting release from these eclectic, synth-heavy indie rockers.

7 Earl Sweatshirt

For Odd Future fans, it has been three long years since Earl Sweatshirt released his critically acclaimed album, “Earl.” Earl spent more than a year in Samoa after his mother sent him to Coral Reef Academy, a troubled youth center. Earl finally came back to the U.S. and immediately got right back to it, doing guest vocals for Odd Future, Frank Ocean, and Tyler the Creator. This year Earl plans to release his second full-length, “Doris.” Featuring star-studded guest vocalists that include Frank Ocean, Tyler the Creator, Mac Miller, RZA and Pharrell, Earl is one of the best up and coming rappers out there. This album has a strong chance to blow up similar to Frank Ocean’s, “Channel Orange.”

8 The Black Keys

The Black Keys are back in the studio again recording their next upcoming LP following the success of their 2011 blues-inspired, glam fest “El Camino.”

In an interview with MTV, guitarist Dan Auerbach confirmed that The Black Keys will once again be working with Danger Mouse, who produced and co-wrote the band’s last record “El Camino.”

Very few details have been released thus far. However, one can assume that it will maintain The Black Keys’ recognizable blues tinged. Whether it will continue the more rockabilly elements of “El Camino” remains to be seen. Regardless, The Black Keys are sure to be a driving force in the modern music scene making their upcoming album an easily anticipated release for 2013.

9 Franz Ferdinand

In the works for the last three years, “Right Thoughts, Right Words, Right Action” will be indie rockers Franz Ferdinand’s fourth studio album who have been overdue for a release since 2009.

The band has already previewed many of their tracks at live performances. Fairly tight-lipped about the album, frontman Alex Kapranos has described the album as directionally “forward” and will maintain the vitality and fun of Franz Ferdinand’s debut self-titled. With a precise aesthetic sight to marry artistic sensibilities with pop hooks, Franz Ferdinand’s upcoming release is sure to be an album to look out for.

10 Arcade Fire

The Montreal indie-pop band’s fourth upcoming studio album has some high expectations to fill; their 2004 debut album “Funeral” was met with critical acclaim and their 2010 release “The Suburbs” won a Grammy for Album of the Year.

The band has already performed some of their new tracks at a secret show in Montreal late 2012, as well as another new song in New York. Working with LCD Soundsystem’s James Murphy in studio, their fourth album has been confirmed for a late 2013 release.

11 Drake

Drake has easily become a household name. The Young Money Cash Money artist is one of the most recognizable celebrities to date. Since his Degrassi days were over, his music career took off and now he is one of the biggest mainstream artists. His new album “Nothing was the Same” will be his third studio release. And with his song “Started from the Bottom”, it is already playing on every radio station and shows that Drizzy will stay in the mainstream light for another year.

12 The Dismemberment Plan

After reuniting to tour two years ago and performing eight new songs, the renowned Washington, D.C. post-punk revivalists confirmed the expected: the band was in the process of recording a new album. Though no official release date has been set, the recording was nearly complete at the end of 2012 so it won’t be long to hear the new LP.

13 J. Cole

Scheduled for release on June 18, J. Cole’s sophomore album “Born Sinner” should remain an interesting effort. Cole has referred to the album as better than his debut citing the freedom he has been controlling the production process.

The first promotional single, “Miss America,” illustrates what Cole says is a step away from pop-accessibility in favor of social commentary. An unorthodox single, it certainly is not a song directed towards radio and sets the tone for what is sure to be Cole’s most ambitious release yet.

14 Eminem

From drug relapses to number one hit albums, Eminem has grown up and his last album “Recovery” proves that he is getting away from his Slim Shady roots. His struggles and addictions gave him a new lease on life; it has affected his musical life as well as his personal life. It seems like his new album will have more of the same maturity that “Recovery” had. His rapping abilities are still as cerebral as when he first came into the hip-hop game. Age is only a number and at 40, Eminem can show the younger generation of rappers this is not a young man’s game anymore.

15 Against Me!

With an upcoming album titled “Transgender Dysphoria Blues,” if you didn’t already know about lead singer Tom Gabel’s recent sexual reassignment operation you would now. The Florida based punk rock band’s sixth studio release is said to be a concept album with gender dysphoria as its theme.

Drummer Jay Weinberg and bassist Andrew Seward announced their departure from the band, however production is still pushing forward. Expect to see a release some time late 2013.

Honorable MentIONS

Queens of the Stone Age — … Like Clockwork
John Legend — Love in the Future
Boards of Canada — Tomorrow’s Harvest
Lady Gaga — ARTPOP
of Montreal — Lousy with Sylviannbriar
Sigur Rós—Kveikur
Deltron 3030 — Event II
Modest Mouse — TBA
Foster the People — TBA
Beck — TBA
**Summer Dates & Deadlines**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 17</td>
<td>Summer classes begin (authorization codes required to add ALL classes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Summer opening book buyback (see vvcrams.com for dates/hours)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 20</td>
<td>Last day to drop a 6 or 8-week class and be eligible to apply for a refund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 23</td>
<td>Last day to drop a 6-week class without receiving a “W”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 23</td>
<td>Deadline to add a 6-week class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 25</td>
<td>Last day to drop an 8-week class without receiving a “W”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 25</td>
<td>Deadline to add an 8-week class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 28</td>
<td>Last day to process book refunds and exchanges for 6 and 8-week classes- see vvcrams.com for dates/hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 3</td>
<td>Last day to submit a Pass/No Pass grade option for 8-week classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Last day to drop a 6-week class and receive a “W”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 4</td>
<td>Independence Day holiday observed (no classes, offices closed, no registration services available)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 10</td>
<td>Last day to drop and 8-week class and receive a “W”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Summer Mid book buyback-see vvcrams.com for dates/hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 27</td>
<td>6-week classes end</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Summer end book buyback-see vvcrams.com for dates/hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 8</td>
<td>Grade submission deadline (6-week classes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 10</td>
<td>8-week classes end</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 21</td>
<td>Grade submission deadline (8-week classes)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5:01 PM - 24 May 13

I’m Siri!
@Drunk_Siri

If a mouse family ever stole my smart phone and used it as a flat screen TV, then I’m ok with it, as long as they’re happy.
STAND UP FOR
STUDENTS!

Campaign for Classes
May 1 - June 7

State budget cuts have prevented California Community Colleges from offering enough classes. Thousands of High Desert residents who need classes this term did not get them. Delays in access will result in fewer graduates. Fortunately, the Victor Valley College Foundation has a solution!

Donate online at vvcfoundation.com or text GIVE2VVC to 20222 to add classes now

*Your $10 donation will be charged to your next phone bill. Message & data rates may apply.

Turn FRUSTRATION into GRADUATION

Sign up to sit in AUTO OCCUPADO
5 1/2 weeks • 37 Days • 888 Hours

Victor Valley College students, staff, faculty and friends will demonstrate the effect of state budget cuts on students’ educational plans by taking turns to sit idle in a new car for the entire length of the Campaign for Classes!

Sign up with the Victor Valley College Foundation to sponsor a day and help students get ahead. Call Catherine Abbott - 760.245.4271 ext. 2146

www.vvcfoundation.com