

JUNE 2023

RAMS MONTHLY



STORIES OF STUDENT SUCCESS AND LEARNING AT VICTOR VALLEY COLLEGE



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Victorville Unveils New City Bridge, Enhancing Connectivity, Accessibility, and Student Commutes



*The new Green Tree Extension bridge
Photo: City of Victorville*

Last month, the city of Victorville celebrated a significant milestone in its infrastructure development with the unveiling of the highly anticipated Green Tree Blvd bridge extension. The new addition will enhance connectivity, accessibility, and greatly benefit the students attending Victor Valley College.

The Green Tree Blvd bridge extension, spanning over the BNSF railroad tracks, was officially opened to the public during a ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by city officials, community leaders, and excited locals. The completion of this project marks a major achievement for Victorville, as it aims to accommodate the city's growing population and improve transportation efficiency for all residents, including college students.

"We have been proud to carry the torch of the great visionaries who first imagined this monumental project 50 years ago," said Victorville Mayor Debra Jones. "We couldn't be more excited to build this new East/West corridor for the benefit of the entire Victor Valley."

The new bridge, measuring nearly 600 feet

in length, provides an alternative route for commuters, alleviating the burden on existing roadways and enhancing the overall traffic flow. In addition to vehicular traffic moving across the bridge, the structure also provides dedicated pedestrian walkways for people and bicycles, ensuring the safety and convenience of all users, including the college students who rely on various modes of transportation.

The Green Tree Blvd bridge extension not only benefits residents and local businesses but also holds great promise for the students attending Victor Valley College. The improved connectivity allows for easier access to the college campus, reducing commute times and transportation costs. This enhanced accessibility enables students to fully engage in their academic pursuits and participate in extracurricular activities.

"The Green Tree Blvd bridge extension will revolutionize the commuting experience for Victor Valley College students,"

said Dr. Daniel Walden, President of Victor Valley College. "The reduced travel time and improved access will allow our students to focus more on their studies, participate in campus events, and benefit from a well-rounded college experience.

A 2021 press release from the city of Victorville stated "the Green Tree Extension will be completed for a total cost of approximately \$46.8 million. San Bernardino County Transportation Authority will contribute \$22.7 million, the City of Victorville \$15 million, the Town of Apple Valley nearly \$4 million, and the County of San Bernardino approximately \$900,000. Additionally, a federal earmark of \$4.2 million originally designated for the High Desert Corridor was authorized for construction of the Green Tree Extension."



From the RamPage: Jobs for Students

Reporter: Jessica Zaragoza

Victor Valley College Paves the Way for Student Employment and Personal Growth

Victor Valley College (VVC) offers programs for students who need employment. Some of the programs they offer are the VVC Federal Work Study Program, CalWORKs, and Outreach. The student employment office provides students with the resources they would need for employment such as: find a job, provide tech support, assistance with resume writing, coordination of placement, and more. Their mission "Is to assist Victor Valley College students with the opportunity to gain work experience and marketable skills in their field of study," stated from the student's employment office.

The Federal work study program does have some requirements for students to be eligible for the program. The first step would be for students to apply for FAFSA and once that is completed students must make sure their financial aid file has been verified. Students must also maintain an overall grade point average (GPA) of a 2.0 or if students are applying to be a tutor, they must have a 3.0 GPA. Another requirement is to be

enrolled in a minimum of 6 units during the semesters of Fall and Spring. It's not required to be enrolled in classes for Winter or Summer unless applying during that time. If applying during that time, students must be enrolled in 1 unit and must also have 6 units for the upcoming semester. Once students have completed all the requirements, they can look for jobs. They're able to look for non-Federal Work study, on campus FSW jobs, and off campus. Students can go to their new online software which is:

vvc.studentemployment.ngwebsolutions.com

in order to search for on campus FWS job openings. When first going on this website students must request access and they will check their financial aid status to see if they're eligible. Once this is accepted, they will login with their username and password. Students search and find a job opening and may apply to those they are interested in. The application will

be sent to the department supervisor of the specific job. They may be chosen to interview, and if the student is offered the job, they will complete some paperwork, and will be notified once the student begins working. Students can also use the website jobseeker to look for jobs. All that a student must do is register for an account and "use your single sign in just how you would on WebAdvisor or canvas or whatever it may be that you're using. They just need to have your VVC email address and student ID," said Melina Rodriguez.

Not only does the program help students find employment, but they also help find one of their interests. In other words, one that they might enjoy regularly going to. A thing that is important is to "always communicate," said Melina Rodriguez. The student employment office is in Building 23 and helps students find employment by providing many services and programs.

Why do we celebrate Pride Month?

Equality emerges because of the 1969 Stonewall Riots



Photo: ONE National Gay and Lesbian Archives at the USC Libraries. (Colorized by Victor Valley College)

Pride Month, observed annually in the United States, holds tremendous significance as a month-long celebration that commemorates the progress and struggles of the LGBTQ+ community. Its origins can be traced back to the historic Stonewall Riots that unfolded in June 1969 in New York City. These events represented a pivotal moment in LGBTQ+ history and served as a catalyst for the modern gay rights movement.

The Stonewall Riots erupted as a response to the persistent oppression and discrimination faced by the queer community at that time. The uprising emerged from a collective yearning for change and justice. The brave actions of LGBTQ+ individuals and their allies during those transformative nights ignited a renewed wave of activism and empowerment within the community.

In the aftermath of the Stonewall Riots, the LGBTQ+ community began organizing and asserting their rights. The inaugural Pride March, originally known as Christopher Street Liberation Day, occurred on June 28, 1970, to commemorate the first anniversary of the Stonewall uprising. This march laid the groundwork for what would later evolve into Pride Month.

As years passed, Pride Month underwent an evolution, transforming into a month-long celebration that acknowledges the achievements of the LGBTQ+ community while advocating for equality. It has become a platform for raising awareness, advocating for LGBTQ+ rights, and fostering a sense of unity and belonging. Pride Month festivities, encompassing parades, parties, and cultural events, have ingrained themselves in American society, promoting acceptance and celebrating the diverse spectrum of sexual orientations

and gender identities.

Today, Pride Month extends beyond the borders of the United States, gaining recognition worldwide as a symbol of LGBTQ+ resilience, visibility, and progress. It serves as a time for reflection on the historic significance of the Stonewall Riots and the ongoing journey towards achieving equal rights and acceptance for all. Pride Month stands as a testament to the unwavering spirit of the LGBTQ+ community and the collective efforts of individuals and organizations striving towards a more inclusive and equitable future.

While acknowledging the broader context of Pride Month, it is important to note that during his presidency, Bill Clinton made noteworthy contributions to LGBTQ+ rights. He took historic steps towards promoting equality and recognition of Pride Month.



In 1999, Clinton became the first U.S. president to issue an official proclamation designating June as "Gay and Lesbian Pride Month."

Through this proclamation, President Clinton demonstrated his support for the LGBTQ+ community and acknowledged their vital contributions to society. His action significantly raised awareness and visibility for Pride Month on a national scale, highlighting the ongoing struggle for LGBTQ+ rights and imperative for greater acceptance and equality.

President Clinton's proclamation established an important precedent for future administrations to acknowledge and honor Pride Month. This tradition has been carried forward by at least two presidents, including Barack Obama and Joe Biden, who have continued to issue their own proclamations, reaffirming their

commitment to LGBTQ+ rights during the month of June.

It is noteworthy to mention that President Clinton's support for Pride Month was part of a broader endeavor to advance LGBTQ+ rights, including his efforts to overturn the ban on openly gay individuals serving in the military, known as "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." These steps, taken during his presidency, marked significant milestones in the ongoing struggle for LGBTQ+ equality in the United States

DID YOU KNOW?



The rainbow-striped Pride flag, known worldwide, serves as a powerful symbol representing the intersectional diversity of LGBTQIA2-S communities. Originally designed by Harvey Milk and Gilbert Baker in the late 1970s, the flag featured eight vibrant colors, each carrying its own profound meaning. Over time, practical considerations led to the evolution of the flag into its current six-color design, which has become universally recognized.

While the rainbow-striped flag holds immense significance, it is essential to acknowledge the presence of specific Pride flags representing various LGBTQIA2-S identities. These flags celebrate and honor the unique experiences and struggles faced by transgender, bisexual, lesbian, pansexual, asexual individuals, and more within the broader community. Notably, the Philadelphia Pride flag, introduced in 2017, incorporates black and brown stripes to recognize and uplift people of color within LGBTQIA2-S communities. In 2018, the Progress Pride Flag was designed, incorporating additional colors to represent transgender pride, promoting inclusivity and solidarity. More recently, the intersex-inclusive Pride flag was created, featuring a purple circle atop a yellow triangle, challenging traditional gender associations and raising awareness about the underrepresentation of intersex individuals.

These diverse flag designs highlight the ongoing efforts to foster inclusivity and address historical marginalization within LGBTQIA2-S movements. By recognizing and embracing the multitude of identities and experiences within the community, these flags serve as powerful symbols of resilience, unity, and progress. They inspire conversations, promote understanding, and symbolize the ongoing fight for equality and acceptance for all individuals, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

VVC student Charles Mallari Excels in CAD, Opening Pathways to Promising Careers

Charles Mallari, a student at Victor Valley College (VVC), is making waves in the field of Computer-Aided Design (CAD) with his exceptional talent and passion for creating innovative designs. Mallari, who previously obtained a Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) degree in sculptures and ceramics from Cal State Fullerton, decided to pursue a certificate in CAD design at VVC to enhance his employment prospects.

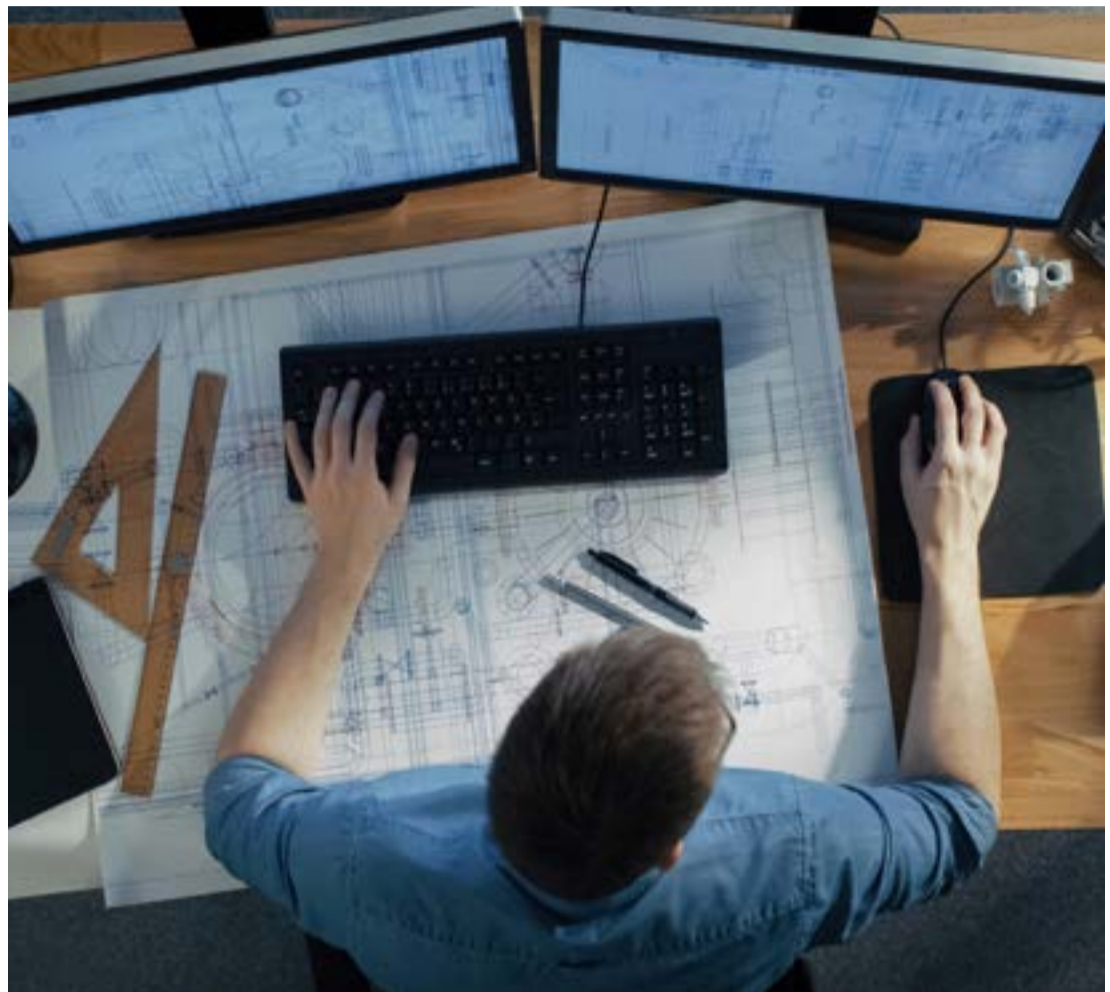
"The choice ultimately came to leave the industry because I wanted to be a stay-at-home dad while deciding what my next career move would be," Mallari explained, reflecting on his decision to transition from the world of sculptures and ceramics to CAD design. "I always had drafting and illustration in all my careers."

Mallari's curiosity and eagerness to learn led him to seek a certificate in CAD design, as he recognized the potential it held for better employment opportunities. "CAD design took to me like a fish in water," Mallari exclaimed. "It's very fun, with lots of problem-solving like a puzzle."

Throughout his artistic journey, Mallari's preference for clean lines and functional artwork has translated seamlessly into the realm of CAD design. "I usually freehand draw and doodle, creating functional artwork with ceramics," he shared. With his unique flair and keen eye for detail, Mallari brings his own flavor to CAD design, embracing the challenges it presents.

In addition to his studies, Mallari also serves as a tutor at VVC, sharing his knowledge and skills in SolidWorks and AutoCAD. "I tutor subjects like SolidWorks and AutoCAD, helping students grasp the concepts and providing guidance in these software applications," Mallari explained. His expertise extends beyond tutoring, as he collaborates with faculty members on practical projects. "I recently worked on a floor plan for the cosmetology department," Mallari mentioned. "Richard needed a better design to send to the barber board for certification. Together, we developed a design that meets their strict requirements."

CAD design and proficiency in software like SolidWorks offer a multitude of promising career paths for students like Mallari. Reflecting on his dream job, Mallari expressed his desire for a flexible schedule, saying, "I



never want a 9-to-5 job. I like the idea of a free schedule to homeschool my kids and work on projects as they come along." His exceptional skills have already caught the attention of industry professionals, as Mallari shared, "I've been fortunate to have a print company reach out to me to be a general illustrator for layouts."

The field of CAD design provides exciting opportunities for individuals to shape their careers in various industries, including engineering, architecture, manufacturing, and product design. Mastery of software applications like SolidWorks opens doors to professions such as mechanical drafting, product design, mechanical engineering, and CAD management. The demand for CAD designers with expertise in SolidWorks continues to grow, offering a promising future for those passionate about this field.

Charles Mallari's journey in CAD design showcases the power of pursuing one's passion and embracing new career opportunities. As he excels in his studies and contributes as a tutor, Mallari serves as an inspiration

to fellow students at Victor Valley College, demonstrating the rewarding career paths that await those who venture into the world of CAD design.

VVC FALL

2023

REGISTER NOW!

Water-Based Media Course

ART 115

M/W 4:00-6:30 PM

Introductory course with an emphasis in foundational painting techniques including color theory, visual perception, composition and creative skills. CSU/UC

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: JESSIE ROATH

An interview with a political science major who represents advocacy and inspiration

Sometimes walking on campus, you'll find a passionate and determined student named Jessie Roath who is making waves as they embark on their final year of studies at VVC. With a major in Political Science, Roath envisions a future where he can shape existing structures and create safe and equal spaces for marginalized communities. In an exclusive interview, Roath shared his experiences, challenges, and aspirations, shedding light on an inspiring journey.

Roath, like many members of the LGBTIA+ community didn't have an inclusive upbringing. In fact Roath spoke to Rams Monthly about overcoming childhood trauma and experiencing domestic violence in his household at an early age. "I was shielded from the LGBTQ community," says Roath who eventually found his way when he discovered friends in the community and watched TV shows that helped him identify who he personally is as an individual. "Being educated about the community helped me grow into my own true identity," says Roath.

Roath touched upon about the most caring individual on campus who has influenced

his academic path. "Elizabeth Duarte has been instrumental in my journey here at VVC. She not only guided me professionally but also connected me with the Associated Student Body (ASB) and encouraged my active involvement in school activities," Roath expressed gratefully. Duarte's mentorship has empowered Roath to forge connections, paving the way for a successful future career.

Reflecting on the challenges faced during college, Roath candidly acknowledged the pressure to excel. "Society often imposes the notion that we must achieve perfection in everything we do, which can be exhausting. But I've learned that it's okay not to achieve 100% in everything. It's a personal journey of growth and self-acceptance," Roath stated, emphasizing the importance of self-compassion and recognizing individual limitations.

When asked about their motivations, Roath shared a deeply personal insight. "The trauma I experienced growing up fuels my motivation to rectify existing issues and create safer environments for those who are suffering,"

Roath revealed. This drive to affect positive change serves as the foundation for their ambitious career goals and aspirations in the political realm.

Beyond his academic pursuits, Roath finds solace and artistic expression in photography. Through this medium, he captures politically significant events, raising awareness and advocating for pressing issues. Roath recently completed a powerful project for their portfolio class, focusing on the lives of transgender individuals and shedding light on his daily experiences.

Imparting wisdom to fellow college students, Roath emphasized the significance of building connections and finding one's place on campus. "Explore the opportunities and resources available to you, align them with your goals, and get involved. Remember to prioritize your own journey and avoid comparing yourself to others; each person has their own unique path," Roath advised.

Addressing ways to enhance the college experience for students, Roath stressed the importance of accessibility for the LGBTQ+ community, particularly transgender individuals who require recognition of their preferred names.

Amidst Roath's inspiring journey, one person has played a significant role. Roath fondly reminisced about his late grandfather, who provided unwavering support throughout his endeavors. "My grandfather was my pillar of strength, always there when I needed him. His encouragement fueled my self-belief, and his pride in my achievements assured me of a bright future."

As Jessie Roath nears the culmination of his time at Victor Valley College, his determination, resilience, and commitment to inclusivity continue to leave an indelible mark on the campus community. With his sights set on the political arena, Roath is poised to make a meaningful difference, advocating for those in need and carving a path towards a more equitable society.



JESSIE ROATH: Political Science major

LGBTQIA+ LITERATURE RESOURCE: VVC Library

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) Pride Month is currently celebrated each year in the month of June to honor the 1969 Stonewall Uprising in Manhattan. The Stonewall Uprising was a tipping point for the Gay Liberation Movement in the United States. In the United States the last Sunday in June was initially celebrated as "Gay Pride Day," but the actual day was flexible. In major cities across the nation the "day" soon grew to encompass a month-long series of events. Today, celebrations include pride parades, picnics, parties, workshops, symposia and concerts, and LGBTQ Pride Month events attract millions of participants around the world. Memorials are held during this month for those members of the community who have been lost to hate crimes or HIV/AIDS. The purpose of the commemorative month is to recognize the impact that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals have had on history locally, nationally, and internationally.

Annual LGBTQ+ Pride Traditions

The first Pride march in New York City was held on June 28, 1970, on the one-year anniversary of the Stonewall Uprising. Primary sources available at the Library of Congress provide detailed information about how this first Pride march was planned and the reasons why activists felt so strongly that it should exist. Looking through the Lili Vincenz and Frank Kameny Papers in the Library's Manuscript Division, researchers can find planning documents, correspondence, flyers, ephemera and more from the first Pride marches in 1970. This, the first U.S. Gay Pride Week and March, was meant to give the community a chance to gather together to "...commemorate the Christopher Street Uprisings of last summer in which thousands of homosexuals went to the streets to demonstrate against centuries of abuse ... from government hostility to employment and housing discrimination, Mafia control of Gay bars, and anti-Homosexual laws" (Christopher Street Liberation Day Committee Fliers, Franklin Kameny Papers). The concept behind the initial Pride march came from members of the Eastern Regional Conference of Homophile Organizations (ERCHO), who had been organizing an annual July 4th demonstration (1965-1969) known as the "Reminder Day Pickets," at Independence Hall in Philadelphia. At the ERCHO Conference in November 1969, the 13 homophile organizations in attendance voted to pass a resolution to organize a national annual demonstration, to be called Christopher Street Liberation Day.



As members of the Mattachine Society of Washington, Frank Kameny and Lilli Vincenz participated in the discussion, planning, and promotion of the first Pride along with activists in New York City and other homophile groups belonging to ERCHO.

By all estimates, there were three to five thousand marchers at the inaugural Pride in New York City, and today marchers in New York City number in the millions. Since 1970, LGBTQ+ people have continued to gather together in June to march with Pride and demonstrate for equal rights.

The Victor Valley College Library is a rich resource that embraces diversity and inclusivity, offering a wide range of literature on Gay Pride and human rights. With a commitment to providing a supportive and inclusive environment for all students, the library houses a collection of thought-provoking books and materials that explore the LGBTQ+ community's history, struggles, and triumphs. From memoirs to academic texts, these resources serve as powerful

tools for education, enlightenment, and fostering empathy. The VVC Library stands as a testament to the college's dedication to promoting understanding, acceptance, and equality for all, making it a welcoming space where individuals can access literature that celebrates the journey towards a more inclusive society.

SOURCE: Victor Valley College Library

VVTA Deputies Ready To Ensure Public Transit Safety for Rams Riders



Victor Valley College students will now have a safer riding experience the next time they hop on the bus for a ride to and from the campus. Deputies from the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department will be working in close collaboration with the Victor Valley Transit Authority (VVTA), putting deputies on at least four rotating bus routes throughout the High Desert community. The team's primary objective is to enhance passenger and driver safety. To achieve this, deputies will now be present on buses, actively monitoring activities at bus stops, as well as at the Victor Valley Transportation Center.

VVTA Board Chair Liz Becerra expressed her enthusiasm about the alliance between Victor Valley Transit and the San Bernardino County Sheriff Department, stating, "Victor Valley Transit and the San Bernardino County Sheriff Department joining forces is a powerful alliance dedicated to safeguarding passenger safety. By pooling our expertise, we can effectively address security concerns, deter criminal activities, and swiftly respond to emergencies. This partnership fosters a sense of security and promotes the well-being of commuters, making public transportation a

reliable and trusted mode of travel for all."

Rams Monthly asked officials for VVTA the most common type of crime that is committed on the buses that may have sparked law enforcement support. Turns out that "fare evasion" is the most common crime. Some riders take advantage of the VVTA bus routes and choose to ride the bus for free instead of paying their fair share of fare for rides.

Nancie Goff, CEO of VVTA, emphasized the significance of this partnership, stating, "Cultivating a steadfast partnership between Victor Valley Transit and the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, we embark on a shared mission to forge meaningful connections within our community. With every interaction, we aim to educate and inform riders while enhancing the overall safety and security of our public transportation system."

With the implementation of this new initiative, Victor Valley College students and all passengers can expect a safer and more secure experience while utilizing the public transportation services provided by Victor Valley Transit.



Deputies from the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department (Victor Valley Station) have partnered with VVTA on at least four rotating bus routes.



**T/TH
6:50-8:15
PM**

Course Description
The course will present cell phone basics that can be applied to a variety of situation in which better cell phone photography is the goal.

**NEW COURSE
PHOT-010**

CELL PHONE PHOTOGRAPHY





VVC Fall 2023

Intro to the Arts of Africa

Online Course

Art 110

8-week course

Oct 23-Dec 16

**This course will introduce the
art of the African continent.**

CSU

**REGISTER
TODAY!**

Register Now!

Fiber Arts Art 170



Fall 2023

The studio course will explore basic techniques in fiber construction. The structure and design of woven and non-woven fiber forms will be investigated using traditional and non-traditional methods and materials. CSU



Create works of art by using different fiber materials

**Monday &
Wednesday
10am-12:30pm**