



"It isn't where you came from, it's where you're going that counts." - Ella Fitzgerald



Striving for success

By **Abram Martinez**
RamPage Reporter

The California Community Colleges Board of Governors (CCCCBG) has released the results of a six year study conducted on the state's 112 community colleges students and their students.

Beginning in 2006, and through the spring of 2012, the CCCCCBG tracked the progress of all Victor Valley College students who enrolled at VVC in that time frame. Statistics show that only 38.6 percent of those students went on to complete either a degree or transfer outcome.

Students who entered VVC after meeting UC transferable pre-requisite scores on their assessment had a 73.1 percent of obtaining a degree or transfer

status. Those who scored for placement in remedial courses went on to complete their degree or transfer status 35.6 percent of the time.

"I've been teaching here 12 years, and every year, my students come to freshman composition less prepared," said English Professor Bruce Wolcott.

The statistics show that many students are not prepared for the basic requirements that are needed for making the transition into college. For the students who score below requisite level, remedial courses must be taken before the student can advance to college level courses. Remedial courses do not provide acceptable UC transferrable or degree level credits.

"According to the master plan of the Community Colleges Board of Governors, com-

munity colleges were designed to be open to everybody," said Tim Johnston, Doctor of education.

Easy enrollment accessibility weighs heavy on the resources of the college and due to insufficient funds, the college is unable to provide preparation tools for every person who plans to enroll at VVC.

The college is initiating programs within a network of 23 participating high-schools to help prepare students for making the transition into the next level of education.

The Victor Valley Student Success Committee, in partnership with the K12 Bridge program are taking steps toward improving assessment scores at the high-school level. They are initiating 'interventions' which

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Summer sessions: Added classes pave the way for students

By **Kristen Martin**
Features Editor

Approximately 200 classes have been added to the summer schedule to better accommodate the student needs at Victor Valley College. The new schedule will not be posted on WebAdvisor until May 1.

"With feed-back from students about the need for class, the enrollment management committee asked the Department Chairs and Deans to add to the summer schedule," said Peter Allan, Interim Executive Vice President.

With more available classes, graduating VVC students benefit from the increased courses. The incoming high school students who are looking to get ahead in college courses are also able to take advantage of the newly added classes.

"The addition of these classes will allow High School students to enroll in College level classes which will count towards their High School graduation, and give them an opportunity to enroll in classes in the Fall semester," said Allan.

With the availability of classes, many students can thrive from the added courses. A large portion of students wanting to enroll in summer session were discouraged due to the lack of variety.

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Money does grow on trees



Elaine Rutledge was one of the students participating in the sale. Photo by Kylie Foster, RamPage Reporter More photos on page 10

By **Kylie Foster**
RamPage Reporter

The Victor Valley College Agriculture and Natural Resources department held a plant sale located on the lower campus. The plant sale included plants grown by students as part of their Plant Propagation and Greenhouse Production class projects.

Each worker was either a faculty member or a student in the department. The sale was open to VVC students as well as

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Those students can check WebAdvisor in May to try again.

Classes have been added in History, Political Science, Chemistry, Biology, Math and English, as well as in Vocational areas. This change increased the summer classes by approximate-

ly 400 percent. Summer session had a total of 50 courses when the schedule was first published.

“Initially, the College was planning on cutting summer to bare bones. We decided to offer only classes needed for transfer or degree completion,” said Allan. “However, it became

apparent that we would not meet our objectives for full-time equivalent student because the summer 2013 schedule was so much less than prior summer schedules.”

The newly developed schedule will be available on WebAdvisor for viewing as of May 1. □ Registration begins

News in Brief

VVC theatre presents ‘The Importance of being Earnest’ A trivial comedy for serious people. May 2-12, performance times vary. See vvc.edu website for show times or call 760-245-4271 x849 for information. General admission \$10, seniors \$7, children \$5 and ASB cardholders are free.

Lewis Williams Passport Series presents “Vietnam and Cambodia” where film producer Clint Denn shares his experience of his journey to these two exotic countries. May 19 at 2:30 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center. General admission \$8, ASB Cardholders are free.

Celebrate dance with the students of the VVC Dance program. Faculty choreographers and students present “Rhapsody in Dance” May 31-June 2. Performance times vary. See vvc.edu website or call 760-245-4271 x849 for information. General admission \$10, seniors \$7, children \$5 and ASB cardholders are free

There will be a workshop on note taking in the Writing Center in the ATC (Bldg 21) from 6-7 p.m. The workshop will cover listening skills, body language and methods of note taking. Contact Patricia Wagner for more information 760-245-4271 x2783.

Registration for summer session begins May 13 through June 16. the first registration block is for ESPS/DSPS, military veterans and active military. Students with 45-90 completed units can register beginning May 15. See all registration blocks on vvc.edu. Remember registration fees must be paid within five days of signing up or risk being dropped!



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Face/off: ASB Elections

By Kristen Martin
Features Editor

According to the ASB Constitution, ASB students who are taking six or more units with a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 are eligible to run for office or be appointed to student government positions.

Victor Valley College Associated Student Body council candidates are campaigning for votes April 22 to May 22.

Elections for the ASB council are held during the spring semester each year. This year, election dates are May 21 and May 22 and the results will be announced on June 10.

Candidate forums will be in the food court on May 9 and May 10 beginning at 11 a.m. and ending at 4 p.m. Students are able to vote in the gymnasium lobby, technology center, or the food court. The polls will be open 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on May 21 and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on May 22.

There are two students who are currently running for ASB president: Edward Martinez and Angelo Ilang-Ilang. One student, I'tavia Peter, is currently running for vice president.

Kanikka Wofford is running for treasurer, Amber Gomez is running for secretary, and Christopher Castaneda is running for health and public safety senator. There are no other candidates at this time.

ASB council meets on a regular basis and determines social policies and program activities for students at VVC. Students on campus are encouraged to bring matters of interest before the council or to sit in on student council meetings.

For information on running in the election, please speak with Deanna Murphy in Auxiliary Services or call her at (760) 245-4271 ext. 2480.

□

Success from page 1

provide classes for high school students in assessment test subjects during their freshman year.

After the courses are completed, the students are then allowed to test for the actual college entry assessment test. Should the student not pass their assessment test, they are given the opportunity to participate in another 'intervention' course which includes further preparation and another chance to take the assessment test. The 'intervention' process would begin during a student's freshman year and would reoccur every year, if necessary, for the

student to meet required level or at least until the student graduates.

Initially designed for 12th grade students, the K-12 Program has expanded its initial focus on high schools to now reach all levels of education. They have begun working with elementary schools, middle schools, counselors and administrators with the hopes of getting more students prepared for higher education.

"Through technology, training, and ongoing support, the K12 Bridge Program will become active participants in the transition to higher education, and not just an observer," ac-

ording to the Bridge Program Website.

"If a student is coming into college prepared then they are very likely to complete their program," said Johnston.

The CCCBG plans to release this scorecard annually by continuing a six year cohort study. However, due to the fact that the VVC K12 programs are still in the development stages, there may be some time before positive statistics are reflected as a result of the programs..

"I think it's larger than the community college itself. I think it depends on what high-school they went to, what opportunities they had, and social economics," said Wolcott. □

Phi Theta Kappa gets inspired

By Janice Shore
RamPage Reporter

In early April, members of the Victor Valley Community College Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) honors society attended their annual convention held in the San Jose Convention Center along with 4,000 other members of PTK.

"We are all in different age groups, we all have different backgrounds, but we are all by the same common purpose and because of that we all have had a chance to develop a certain kind of relationship with each other," said Natalie Bonello, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Topic Coordinator.

Among the many speakers and presenters, Geoff Colvin, author of the book "Talent Is Overrated: What Really Separates World-Class Performers From Everybody Else," released in 2008. His words especially resonated with Bonello.

"What was so inspiring and memorable about that speech is that it told everybody success is in their own hands, you don't have to be born with it," said Bonello.

Bonello, who has been involved in the honors society for three and half semesters, lit up when she spoke of the powerful advice Colvin offered to his audience. Much of what Colvin's book was about was very similar to the foundation



VVC's Phi Theta Kappa members attended a convention where they were able to connect with other members of their chapter from all over the world.

Photo courtesy of Deanna Murphy

Phi Theta Kappa prides themselves in. Bonello is working to implement what she learned from Colvin's lecture not just in the group she is a part of but also in her academic career.

"If you push yourself each and every time the possibilities are limitless. It may be challenging but it is in your own hands," said Bonello, as she reflected on what she took away from watching Colvin's speech.

The group attended educational forums which took place in a classroom setting where they got an in-depth look at the many things Phi Theta Kappa does. They were given information about their Honors in Action (HA) project and the best way to utilize what they

find to pursue their HA goals. The project is used to instill intellectual prosperity and to create leadership and action to aid their community according to their website www.ptk.org.

This project touches on the four cornerstones that Phi Theta Kappa was founded on; leadership development among members, fellowship to new members, scholarship for research, and service to the community. Each chapter is given an overall topic and must develop a research question to apply in order to develop a plan that help make an impact on their community.

The VVC chapter is already working steadily on their pro-

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VVC presents local job opportunities

By Tanya Patterson
Assistant Managing Editor

Job seekers lined the walls of the Gym on Victor Valley Colleges' lower campus during the Community Job Fair on April 23. Twenty-six companies attended the event offering information, accepting applications and reviewing resumes from VVC students and non-students alike.

Participants had mixed feelings about the event.

"I hoped there would be more actual jobs here," said Robert Adame, who hopes to enroll at VVC in the near future. "I like the educational programs, but I'm here looking for a job!"

However, Justin Nguyen, a VVC student in training to become a registered nurse is pleased with his results. He attended the fair looking to find a job in a medical setting, and received a call back within hours of submitting an application with an 'at-risk' youth program.

"I've worked with kids at church and I have some experience," Nguyen said. "I gave them my resume and they said I'd be a good candidate. It's good pay, so I'm pretty excited."

The fair boasted a wide variety of organizations and an even wider array of positions from sales jobs to engineering careers. While some work descriptions included more advanced education, others provided on-the-job training once hired.

Cemex, a building materials company, had representatives attend the fair to provide information on how to apply. The company is currently looking for general laborers, dispatch, engineers, maintenance workers and welders.

"The salary positions will be online. The hourly positions, we're sending them down to get an application and attach their resumes," said Cemex Mine supervisor, Jessie Gomez. "We did talk to a few guys that said they had welding and maintenance experience."

Gomez gave out over 200

business cards during the four-hour fair.

VVC students found ample opportunities to get paid for putting their education to good use. The Apple Valley High School Sundevil PRIDE After School Program took time to speak with students interested in tutoring. Alpha Connection and Think Together were also among the groups looking for applicants excited about working with youth.

Human Resources Director and Administrator, Evonnda Hull, came prepared to hire for both full and part-time positions with Alpha Connection Youth and Family Services. Past job fairs have proven valuable to the agency.

"More than half our staff right now we hired through job fairs," Hull said.

Alpha Connection staffs between 50-70 people and currently has 22 kids in their foster care and probation program. They are also looking for volunteers for their new tutoring program.

Members of the High Desert Community who missed this community job fair are invited to attend the High Desert Regional Job Fair on Wed. May 15, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the San Bernardino County Fairgrounds Building 1. The fairground is located at 14800 Seventh St. in Victorville. More information can be found at: <http://2013hdjobfairworkshop.ventbrite.com>.

□

Rampage staff wants to know what you would like to read in your newspaper. Send us your questions/comments/story ideas:
vvcrampage@gmail.com



Job seekers from all over the High Desert came to meet with local companies at VVC on April 23. Twenty-six companies filled the gym, some allowing applicants to fill out paperwork on the spot
Photo by Tanya Patterson, Assistant Managing Editor

WHAT'S
HAPPENING
AROUND VVC?



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Heard Around The Lake

With the random acts of violence that have been occurring recently, how safe do you feel at school?



"Personally I feel safe, but sometimes I have my concerns."
-Michael Vindetti



"I feel pretty safe. It doesn't feel like a threatening environment."
-Xavier Baker

"I haven't given it much thought....but I definitely don't feel as safe at school as I used to."
-Reyanna Lotz



"I do not feel that safe at school because of everything that has been happening; with the bombings and such, it can happen anywhere to anyone."
- Noelle Rubico



What the duck?

By Micah Raimo

Special to the RamPage

Many waterfowl use the lake as a migration rest stop, but the Canada Geese use the water as a yearly roost. Seeing a nesting Goose on the grounds is uncommon, seeing them in great numbers is normal and students are accustomed (and somewhat annoyed) at the visiting gaggles.

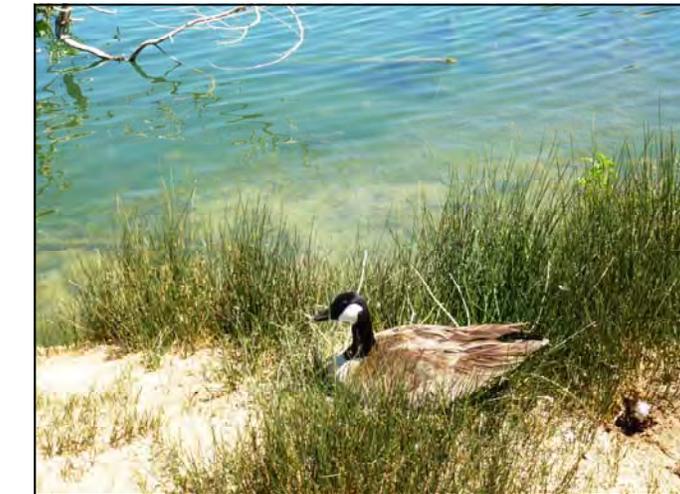
Like most of their fowl cousins, they are not people friendly.

According to the Victor Valley College Publication, "Fifty Years," the college was built around a lake reserved for duck hunting.

Early hunting decimated the population. Hunters gave no thought to the dwindling numbers. Many species were believed to be extinct until the 1960s; around the time the campus opened to the High Desert community.

Now the bird is placed on The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) list as "Least Concern."

Towards the end of Spring Semester, the parents begin to fly in and coast along the surface of the lake. Silently, they



The 'Mother Goose' sits on her eggs along side the lake at VVC
Photo by Micah Raimo, Special to the RamPage

invade with numbers large enough to be noticed. Typically, the Canada Geese stands about knee high with a silver belly, brown wings, a black head and a white chin strap.

By the time Fall Semester starts, the grey goslings are scampering about the grass until they are as tall as their parents. The numbers of Geese have often risen to be a nuisance. In the Spring of 2012, the ducks were raising their young in force. Students were complaining about the mass of feathers

and nipping mothers. But, one morning they were gone. Whether or not they were killed or trapped is still a mystery.

One mama Canada Goose was spotted tending to her embryonic brood on campus. The Male stands tall pacing back and forth while the mom sits on the eggs all while students pass by the nurturing bird. In the meantime, students traverse around the hissing mothers and walk over their green poo for the following onslaught of the Canada Geese. □

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ject which they hope to submit in December to be eligible for a Hallmark Award. The Hallmark Award recognizes chapters who have best utilized their research question and how they use them to exemplify leadership, fellowship, scholarship, and service. The overall topic they were assigned is the culture of competition. Each member of the VVC chapter is researching a theme that they will present to other members of their chapter, so as a whole they can decide on a theme to focus on in developing their research question. After forming their question the will then make a plan to establish ways of positively impacting their community.

The Phi Theta Kappa organization offers awards to individuals who excel in an academic setting. During the convention, the VVC chapter was honored with a 3-star rating certificate for their commitment to achieving the goals they have set for themselves. To earn a certain number of stars, each chapter has to complete a list of activities and goals that relate to the four structures of Phi Theta Kappa; leadership, fellowship, scholarship, and service. They are currently working towards receiving a 5-star rating at the next convention.

One of the many benefits that come with being part of PTK is the recognition members receive in the community for being part of an prestigious organization. And while each member within the organization vary in personality it is their attitude towards education that unites them.

"Phi Theta Kappa brought us together, we are an unlikely group. Outside of Phi Theta Kappa we probably wouldn't have the same relationships," said Bonello.

At the convention the VVC chapter participated in signing a pledge to commit themselves to completing their education. Currently they are working to set forth a plan that will help to encourage other students at VVC to achieve a higher education and to be proactive about reaching goals students set for themselves. □

VVC prepares for celebration of Mexican heritage

By Brenda Ortiz
RamPage Reporter

An excellent cultural experience can be found at Victor Valley College on May 4, where families can join together to celebrate the richness of the Mexican culture. Through food, music and dance, everyone has the opportunity to experience Mexico right in their backyard.

Though many have the misconception that Cinco de Mayo is Mexico's Independence Day, it is in fact a day to commemorate for a different reason: Mexico's army defeated France during the six-year Franco-Mexican War in 1862. Even though this monumental moment occurred in Mexico, it is commonly celebrated in the U.S. by the Mexican-American population.

The 40th Annual Cinco de

Mayo Family Festival will be hosted by the City of Victorville, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, VVC and Wal-Mart. Other vendors and sponsors are expected to attend and raise

experience VVC and showcases what we have to offer to the community," said Lynn Guardado, a physical education and dance instructor at VVC.

Guardao's dance class is set to

Through food, music and dance, everyone has the opportunity to experience Mexico right in their backyard.

perform at this year's event.

Last year's turnout was estimated at 13,000 people, who came far and wide to join together and enjoy the festivities.

funds. The proceeds will be given to VVC in the form of scholarships.

Not only is the event to acknowledge a heritage, but also an opportunity for diversity to bring families together.

"It brings a lot of people to

together and enjoy the festivities.

This year's line-up for festivities includes food vendors, traditional Mexican dancers, Aztec dancers and mariachi. There will also be a Kid Zone where children can go to meet with characters such as Dora the Explorer,

Diego, and McGruff the Crime Dog. Home Depot will be there as well with special activities for the children.

"We are going to be honoring Felix Diaz, who is a former member of Victorville's City Councilmen. He will be the grand Marshall of the event and we are going to give him special recognition for all his years of service to the community," said Eric J. Camarena, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Chairman.

The festival will be held on May 4 around the lake at VVC beginning at 10 a.m. and lasting until 6 p.m. It is a great opportunity to enjoy some time with the family and have a taste of Mexican culture as they celebrate a victory for their heritage.

Ram it Forward: giving more than just trucks

By Alexandra Roland
RamPage Reporter

Victorville Motors does a lot more than selling cars and trucks to the community. They have recently picked up an interest in assisting Victor Valley College.

They've held fundraisers for multiple causes throughout the years from Wrightwood all the way to Lucerne Valley to Barstow, and everything in between, according to Victorville Motor's Director of Sales, Billy Mack.

On April 16 and April 24, Victorville Motors held fundraisers at VVC called Ram it Forward. The company brought some of their finest trucks and took students out on a quick test drive, followed by some free pizza and barbeque. The fundraiser donated up to 25 dollars per test drive towards VVC, which is distributed from VVC's Foundation evenly between VVC groups.

"I feel that every school needs help like they're giving the school, and I would like to see them help the music department because the classes keep getting



Two RAM pick-up trucks were among the vehicles being used in the test drive fundraiser event, graciously provided by Victorville Motors.

Photo by Alexandra Roland, RamPage Reporter

dropped," said student Justin Morelion.

The specific groups the Ram it Forward fundraiser benefits include the athletics department, Model United Nations, and ASB's Phi Theta Kappa. The groups helped the event by getting word out to students through fliers and other methods.

Victorville Motors' goal was to reach at least 300 test drives.

Students had positive reviews about the fundraiser and enjoyed the work the dealership is doing to help out VVC. They also voiced their opinions on what departments they would like to see get assistance in the future.

"I think it's cool that they're giving out free food. It's nice

that they're taking the time out of their day to help our school raise money, too. I would like to see them help the Child Development department," said student Taylor Brown.

It takes a lot of effort and planning to ensure that the Ram it Forward event runs smoothly.

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A sugar-free rush to the finish line

By Rasheta Driver
RamPage Reporter

On Sunday April 21, D.J. Ramon Fraydealvaro played the well-known triumphant song "Eye of the Tiger" as first place runner Sebastian Angelo trotted to the chalk drawn finish line at Victor Valley College's first annual Diabetes Awareness Run.

The 5k run wrapped around VVC's lower and upper campus was arranged by Kevin Barda, a cross country coach and Interim Student Service Specialist at the Transfer Center. There were dozens of participants from all age groups. This race reminds people of how diabetes is a common disease.

Mike Ambuski, a 35 year old participating runner and a member of Weight Watchers, is an example of someone who was heavily overweight and affected with diabetes. With the help of the company, Ambuski was able to create a new lifestyle for himself.

"My doctor was like 'You really need to take this seriously.' He put me through diabetes education. Just knowing the effects of diabetes. You could lose limbs; you could lose your eyesight. I have an uncle on my dad's side, an uncle or his father, who lost a leg," said Am-

buski.

Both Ambuski and his wife, Velvet, struggled with their weights but with the help of Weight Watchers, they lost a combined 257 pounds. Ambuski did not care about winning, wanting only to show his support and be active, but when awards were given out he won second place for his overall age group. Ambuski is not the only person dealing with the effects of diabetes running in his family, the DJ also has similar problems.

D.J. Fraydealvaro has children and worries about their health but he is pleased with the changes schools have made by offering healthier choices.

"My Grandma actually passed away from diabetes. It runs in my dad's side of the family. My dad was cast as a Type II and I was diagnosed as a pre-diabetic," said Fraydealvaro.

According to VVC Child Development Director Kelley Johnson, this is the year of health and wellness awareness for the college with a special emphasis on pre-diabetes. Johnson, with the help of other individuals at VVC, wants to bring awareness to pre-diabetes and Type II diabetes by highlighting it.



First place runner, number 630 Sebastian Angelo (in yellow) starts the race off strong.

Photo Courtesy of Kelly Johnson

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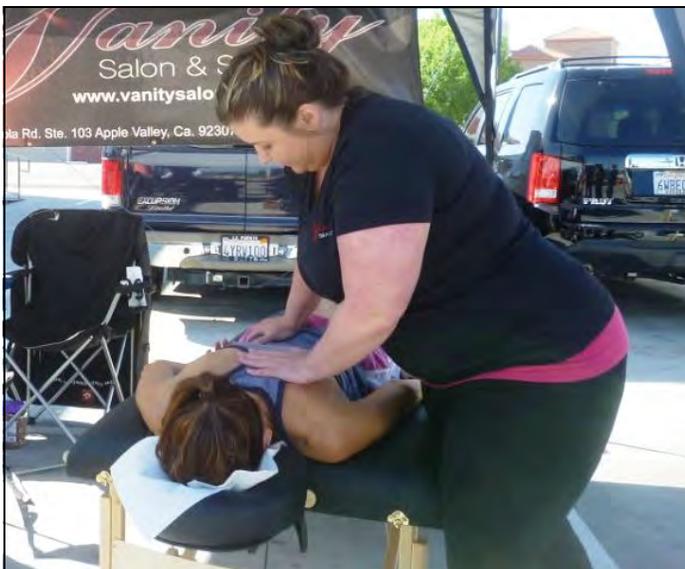
"I got staff with 10-14 people, and each event takes 5-6 hours minimum, with two days of prepping prior to. We have a graphic designer here so it's getting the flyers, a lot of ground work. So, pretty intense," said Mack.

The most testing part of putting an event together is getting the cooperation of people at the event. Victorville Motors wants to let people know that there is no 'hidden agenda' with their events, according to Mack.

Another event they hold is called, "It's a Gas to go to Class." Students with perfect attendance at selected schools get the chance to win prizes from gift cards to a new 2013 Dodge Dart. This event will be held May 18 for schools across the High Desert.

Victorville Motors focuses mainly on helping schools, police departments, fire stations, military, and Hispanic communities. Currently, the dealership's main focus is schools because students are the future teachers, police officers, and leaders according to Mack. He encourages people to find a cause, get behind it, and get active with the community.

"The community needs us, and we need them," said Mack.



Vanity Salon & Spa was one of the many vendors who came out to support the event. They were offering free massages before and after the run.

Photo courtesy of Kelly Johnson

This helped initiate a 5k run. All the proceeds went to the American Diabetes Association.

While people had to pay to participate in the race, there were booths staffed by people volunteering their time and services to help the community learn about health and wellness practices.

Lori Cooper, a retired cop and creator of the company Lori D. Cooper Training Inc., is also a part of the fight for health and wellness. She volunteered at VVC and held a booth promoting her fitness boot camp at the race.

In addition to Cooper's booth, there were also representatives from Vanity Salon and Spa booth offering free massages before and after the race for its runners.

"It's like anything," said race participant Mark Campbell. "When you race it's a discipline and when you have a health condition like diabetes you gotta be smart. Pace yourself and do the right thing: diet and exercise."

The race ended with a raffle of donated prizes, medals being given to the winners from each age group and a moment of silence for the runners in Boston who were injured or killed before they could cross their finish line. □

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Ready Rams spice things up

By Briana Buchanan
RamPage Reporter

What a scorcher! Tongues sizzled, faces poured sweat last Wednesday as students braved the fiery frontiers of home-made hot wings in a contest hosted by the ReadyRams Club in the S.A.C.

"My mouth was on fire," said Sui Motufau, shortly after experiencing one of the hottest challenges offered at VVC.

During Club Rush, college organizations littered the Student Activities Center, vying for student's attention by host-

cin and rated at 800,000 Scoville units. Satan's Blood was simply swirled in with BBQ sauce until deemed hot (read: painful) enough.

Rules? Simple. Contestants could not touch their water during the contest and first one to completely finish seven wings claimed first place. First place prize consisted of a \$25 Applebee's Gift Card and a ReadyRams t-shirt, second place prize was a \$10 food café card, third place – a simple pat on the back.

After a tense couple minutes filled with shouts of encourage-



Ready Rams Club hosts the Hot Wing Eating Contest.
Photo By Briana Buchanan, RamPage Reporter

ing exciting events. At center stage, literally, stood the ReadyRams club with its three dollar buy-in hot wing contest. A signed waiver was required before even attempting the event, a warning, perhaps an invitation, for thrill-seekers. Eleven eager contestants prepared for the show-down.

The wings and sauce were prepared by ReadyRam students themselves, a unique sauce packed with heat. Main ingredients included wings, BBQ sauce and an extract simply known as, 'Satan's Blood'. The extract was compromised of almost pure capsai-

ment from the gathering crowd, James Agor swiftly raised his both his hands in the air as a sign of completion. Not a mere second later, Sui Motufau also threw her hands in the air, and Jesse Mwangi finished close behind. All contestants proved, however, their mighty eating prowess before scattering to find milk, chocolate, or other fire-killing alternatives. This would be Agor's second time securing his title as champion of the contest.

"My strategy was shove the entire chicken in my mouth, literally suck it off the bone. Do not chew, swallow meat



James Agor won first place in the hot wing eating contest. He licks the spicy goodness off his fingers just after receiving the Championship belt from Manuel Gayton (left) and Cesar Rivera (right).

Photo By Briana Buchanan, RamPage Reporter



The winners of the hot wing contest: Jesse Mwangi, James Agor, Sui Motufau.
Photo By Briana Buchanan, RamPage Reporter

whole," said Agor.

Motofau appeared cool and collected after her close finish.

"Chocolate burns fire, I ate chocolate right after and it just killed it," Motofau said.

After a little recuperation, Agor graciously gifted his prize to second-place Sui, as he was an officer of ReadyRams. Instead, he proudly wore the hand-made

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LA Times festival of books: A first person account

By Daniel Mariano
Online/Social Media Editor

More than 200,000 people, 1,000 exhibitors, and local High Desert author/Victor Valley College alumni, Tania L. Ramos took on one of the West Coasts' largest literary events of the year: The Los Angeles Times Festival of Books. Preparations for the festival began December 2012 for Ramos.

"I've been thinking about actually being here since I first attended a few years back and thought to myself, 'I hope one day I can be amongst all these awesome authors and have the chance to let the world see my book.' Now, here I am, an author with her book on display at the LA Times Festival of Books," said Ramos.

The morning of the event, before the early sun even had the chance to show its face, Ra-

mos and a few staff members rolled out on their two-hour drive down to the event at University of Southern California.

During the ride, Ramos hinted that she was nervous, although she gave the impression of being completely nonchalant about the whole thing. Thoughts were being collected and some of the PR staff were reciting to themselves and practicing what they would say about the authors and books they were representing.

One woman purchased a copy of Ramos' book, *Be Still*, and then went on to mention that she's a teacher at Lincoln High School in East Los Angeles and plans to introduce Ramos' book into the school's library. After the book was signed, the woman and Ramos exchanged info and informally set up a speaking event for Ramos.

As the evening came, the flow of attendees did not die down. It

remained consistently busy until 30 minutes after the event was officially over. Ramos and the PR staff packed up their valuables and secured their spot. They made their way over to their vehicle and set home back into the Inland Empire/High Desert.

As day two of the event approached, Ramos and some PR staff were up past midnight preparing for the next day. The majority only got about four hours of sleep, waking before the sun once more.

The rate and flow of traffic doubled and remained that way all day. Through all the madness, books were sold, laughs were shared and many stories were told. At the end of the festival, Ramos had sold over 20 copies of her book.

"Attendees only come to these things for free stuff. The fact that you sold more than one book is beyond remarkable," said Stephanie Beyer, LAFOB Zone Manager.

Beyer's words held to the matter, since every author, publishing house and vendor was for the most part, giving away books by the hundreds. Some readers were so intrigued by the angles of books on display at the PR's booth that they returned with the money to buy a copy.

In the end, Ramos and the PR firm gave out almost 10,000 items of promotional bookmarks and flyers to attendees. Almost 30 softcover books were sold, not including a few that were given away. Over a few hundred friendships, fans and potential clients for the PR Firm and Ramos were made.

"This was more than I imagined it would've been. The turnout was beyond great. I just can't believe so many people wanted to meet and take a picture with me," said Ramos.

"The person that said, 'dreams are just dreams and it's best to just keep your feet on the ground' was wrong. Anything is possible, you just need to realize

it yourself," Ramos said.

Tania L. Ramos is the Author of *Be Still* and *Surviving the Writing Apocalypse*. She is Victor Valley College alumni and is currently in the process of booking all her upcoming tour/lecture dates with her PR firm for the upcoming months of June, July and August.

More information about the local author can be found at her website at

www.BeStillNovel.com.

□

Hot Wing from page 8

paper champion belt.

"Next year I retire my belt, so come and take it from me," said Agor.

The ReadyRams club hosts similarly fun events and offers volunteer opportunities across the High Desert region, from Hesperia to Barstow.

"We don't just do clean-ups; we do a lot of different stuff. We do carwashes, we do dodge ball tournaments, we do anything we can do to get people motivated," said Annette Linares, vice-president of the ReadyRams club.

Comprised of 43 members and six officers, the club is always looking to expand its program to more students.

"We'll take anybody who's willing to make a difference," said Linares.

You can keep up-to-date on ReadyRams club activities on its Facebook page:

[Facebook.com/readyrams.vvc](https://www.facebook.com/readyrams.vvc). □

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Homegrown happiness

Agriculture students show and sell

Photos By Kylie Foster
RamPage Reporter

Plant Sale from page 1

members of the public.

"The plants are native and obscure... You can't just buy them at Home Depot," said Agriculture faculty member Carlos Ruiz.

The plants for sale included native and desert landscape plants, tomato plants, eucalyptus and mulberry trees, sweet and hot peppers, cucumbers, melons, herbs, and more. Certain varieties of the landscape plants are unique to the program. The tomato plants were grown organically and were of Heirloom and open-pollinated varieties.

"The money will help us buy soil, seeds, pots, and other materials. It also funds our field trips to botanical gardens, greenhouses, and different plant communities," said student worker Elaine Rutledge.

The sale is run by the Agriculture department and all of the profits will go towards enhancing their students. This allows them to buy their own supplies so they do not have to depending solely on money from the college.

Agriculture and Natural Resources department at VVC focuses on giving students an education and awareness of how to use natural resources and take hold of what the earth has to offer. The department gives class on basic agriculture, animal sciences, plant sciences, natural resources management classes, water management, and more. The funds from this sale will help grow a department providing better resources to its students as well as being beneficial to the community.

"It's not just vegetable planting and farming," said student worker John Wood. □





Artful Expression

Students and community preserve art

Photos By Daniel Compean
Entertainment Editor

Victor Valley College students, local artists and community members volunteered to restore a mural on the side of Victor Bowl to its original state after it had become defaced with graffiti.

"I remember this mural when I was a kid. It kind of bothers me that someone would just graffiti over art," said VVC art student Ronnie Senteno.

All five panels of the mural were damaged with red paint covering the panoramic desert vista. Once the mural restoration is finished the wall will be sealed with a layer that will protect against any future vandalism.

Fine Arts Instructor Anna-Marie Veloz expressed the community's support over the restoration and the desire to preserve art.

"This is the first time we've restored a mural. The community's been really interested and open to it.," said Veloz. □





Upcoming performance: 'The Importance of Being Earnest'

By Nicole Stacy
RamPage Reporter

A rose by any other name may smell as sweet, but to Gwendolen and Cecily a man by any other name than Ernest is not much man at all. That is "The Importance of Being Earnest," Victor Valley College's last production of spring 2013.

"Gwendolen and Cecily have made their minds up, they will not marry anyone who isn't named Ernest," said director Dr. John Rude.

Gwendolen Fairfax, daughter of Lady Bracknell and cousin to Algernon Moncrieff, is the love of John Worthing. Worthing assumes the name Ernest while in town and it is an identity that Gwendolen falls in love with. The fictional Ernest also draws the interest of Worthing's ward, Cecily Cardew. Moncrieff, on the other hand, is a mod-

el of Victorian excess. The pretentious Lady Bracknell is a woman "of opinion that a man who desires to get married should know either everything or nothing" and Worthing is a man who claims to know the

latter. He seeks to win her approval and with it Gwendolen's hand in marriage. He might do so, if not for his lost parents.

Every character is a caricature of themselves from the start. The emptiness of their persons

is further illustrated by their wealth and leisure. Even so the motivation of both Worthing and Moncrieff is women, and not money.

"They aren't real people," said Dr. Rude.

The British farce is one Dr. Rude is fond of and has wanted to do for over 40 years. He is alarmed by the notion that anyone might come to the play and search for meaning; according to him, Oscar Wilde would roll over in his grave. Instead it is "a trivial comedy for serious people" as Wilde labeled it.

"It's classic in a sense, it's the only one Oscar Wilde wrote like this," said Dr. Rude.

The performers are hard at work rehearsing in the evenings. According to the director the lines are memorized, but the cari-



Andrew Lopez, Diane Wollen and Garrett Botts rehearse a scene from 'The Importance of Being Earnest'

Photo by Nicole Stacy, RamPage Reporter

Continued in
Earnest on page 15

RAM REVIEW

New album may leave fans feeling 'Bankrupt'

By Kylie Foster
RamPage Reporter



French alternative band Phoenix finally released their second album, titled "Bankrupt!" following the success of their last record "Wolfgang Amadeus Phoenix." After the completion of a world tour, the four abstract minded musicians came together in the studio of Adam Yauch (Beastie Boys) to begin cutting their newest track. The only word suitable for the final product: psychedelic.

In the April issue of "Rolling Stone," lead singer Thomas Mars expressed the band's interest to move away from the style of their last album and explore

unique instruments and retro production tools. The album features a small toy keyboard they found in a Versailles pawn shop. The final mixing was done on a vintage console also used in the production of Michael Jackson's classic hit, "Thriller."

At times, the line between keys and guitar was so blurred one couldn't tell the difference. The band even mixed up their use of the drum machine and an actual drum kit. While switching up their sound, the lyrics remain similar. Creating a unique hybrid between melancholy and upbeat, they've meshed sad words and happy sounds. It's a mix that is so crazy, it almost works.

The complexity of their songs must be commended. The songs

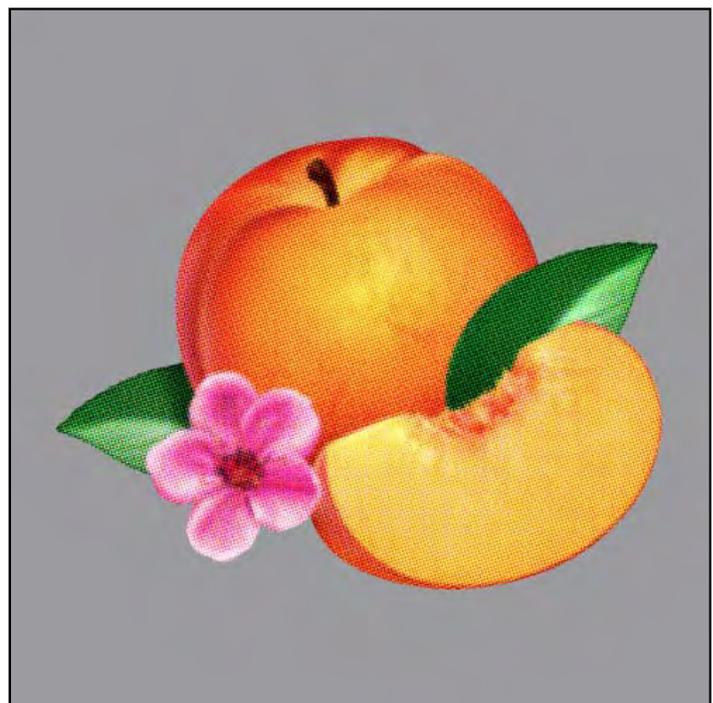


Photo courtesy of V2 Records

Continued in *Phoenix* on page 19

Blues & BBQ: The High Desert finds its soul

By Daniel Compean
Entertainment Editor

Stepping onto the San Bernardino County Fairgrounds was quite pleasing to the senses. Throughout the grounds, a medley of spices wafted across the event, as competing barbecue vendors displayed their expertise with meats on charcoaled grills. At the same moment of walking in, on stage 14-year-old Chase Walker is playing a fresh take on blues music – and he's doing pretty well. Seemingly, the entire event flows together easily, however, lead coordinator Debbie Yopp-Turner knows the road to the 2nd Annual High Desert Music Festival (HDMF) has been a long, and difficult venture.

"This was really difficult. Because we were so new, there were a few things we thought we could do better from the first year," said Turner.

Turner's idea for the HDMF had very unique beginnings.



Photo courtesy of High Desert Music Festival

would bring congas and perform for inmates. It was when she saw the prison inmates sing, dance and play all together she knew she wanted to pursue this in the community.

"Yeah, it was at that time...." she sighed and nodded, "I just knew. I wanted to help and be

it. This is the reason for juxtaposing blues and, for the first time at the HDMF, a BBQ event. According to Turner, both of these arts were founded on taking the scraps, looking at what you got and make it into something more.

"BBQ is in America. Its roots are founded here, and it is the pieces of meat that nobody wanted and we made it a delicacy," said Turner.

Some of the local vendors at the HDMF are now nationally ranked organizations that have a chance at moving forward to be entered into The Jack Daniel's Invitational which has a purse of 50,000 dollars. At the very least,

this definitely made the entire event even more ambitious. Especially since the BBQ wasn't even the main focus of the festival. While the vendors were cooking, the bands were performing.

"Blues is America's contribution to music," said Ronnie Stewart, Director of Bay Area Blues Society.

As he is telling me this, blues band Wumbloozo is going into a complex blues jam with a jazz saxophone playing a fiercely cool solo. I don't doubt his claims.

The Bay Area Blues Society was one of several blues organizations present at the festival dedicated to spread blues, jazz and soul as an art form.

"Blues is the root of most of American music: jazz, rock 'n roll, and soul. So we thought we would use that as a springboard to identify that we have a lot in common," said Turner.

The sweltering heat proved to be of little concern to these musicians dedicated to the blues. Backstage, the Caravan of All Stars prepped for their upcoming set as Big Papa & the TCB gave a stunning blues performance with a cool blend of styles and rhythm.

**Continued in
Music Festival on page 16**



Wumbloozo Saxophone player performs a solo
Photo by Daniel Compean, Entertainment Editor

Starting out as a social worker, she co-founded the Latin Sound Initiative, bridging African American and Latino cultures together. During her time with the organization, she worked in the Special Housing Units where she – along with other members of the program –

around creative people, because art is a healing activity."

From this point forward, it was a question of how to bring the people together in the most cohesive way. She pointed towards American culture, which is known for taking what we got, making it shine, and sharing

Earnest from page 14

captures must still be developed.

15 minutes before rehearsal begins four students are clustered together in the hallway of the Performing Arts Center, already engrossed in practice. Garrett Botts, who plays John Worthing, exchanges barbs with a male co-star. Rachell Hearn, who plays Cecily Cardew, sits on the floor with her script in her lap and goes over her lines once more. Each is focused, even to the exclusion of other actors fewer than ten feet away.

Botts cites reading a lot of Wilde's other work to find his voice and prepare for his role.

He began acting three years ago and most recently performed in a production of "12 Angry Men."

"I think it is a brilliantly written play," said Botts.

"It's nothing like you've ever seen," said Hearn.

Beginning May 2 and ending May 12, "The Importance of Being Earnest" will run from Thursday to Saturday at 7:30pm, and on Sundays at 2:30pm in the PAC. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$7 for seniors, \$5 for children or free with an ASB card.

"It's a ridiculous farce," said Dr. Rude. "It's so much fun." □

Blues & BBQ: The High Desert finds its soul

Music Festival from page 15

Closing the festival out Saturday night with impressive musicianship and skill was Rod Piazza & the Mighty Flyers. A blues harmonica player, Piazza's energy crackled throughout the audience with his rhythmic boogie sound in the spirit of West Coast blues.

As the festival came to a close, Turner says she hasn't slept for nearly three days. Still, she is in control of the event as people still ask her about the day's event; she remains calm and relaxed. People walk up to her and tell her the festival went great, as they shake her hand. As we sit, her mind on a multitude of tasks, I ask how she'll look back at the High Desert Music Festival. She pauses and while reminiscing of the event Turner smiled and said, "It's a gift." □

Photos By Daniel Compean
Entertainment Editor





Truly, a night to Remember

By Todd Hadler
Sports Co-Editor

The concert had been sold out for almost two months in advance. When I arrived, an hour before the doors opened at The Fox Theater in Pomona, the line had already stretched around the building. After one quick glance, one could notice the amount of females in attendance. The crowd makeup was almost 50/50, which is abnormal for a metal show.

These fans were not waiting around all day to see just any ordinary metal band. These fans had paid their \$30 to see A Day to Remember, a band known for fusing a unique combination of pop punk and metalcore into a style all their own. On Dec. 21, 2012, the band announced plans to embark on their first headlining United States tour since their last tour, two years before. The tour also included Of Mice & Men and Issues.

A Day to Remember is one of the most popular bands in metal right now and I underestimated that. After an hour waiting in line, the area right in front of the stage had been filled, so my friend and I had to stand back a ways, but we still had good view of the stage.

We got into the venue just before the first band of the night, Issues, started. Issues plays standard, yet catchy, metalcore with a slight RnB influence. This influence is seen in Tyler Carter's very soothing vocals and the presence of a DJ – not a Macbook DJ, an actual record scratching DJ.

The band opened with the bouncy, "Love Sex Riot," which got the crowd on their feet from the start. I immediately noticed how energetic the band was. The bassist was head-banging every which way, while the DJ flew around the stage. Issues has only released one EP, Black Diamonds, yet the crowd sang along at every opportunity. The band has very cool transitions from the vocals to the straight

metal, where the screaming tones of Michael Bohn come in. The band kept this energy through their final song, "King of Amarillo." I only wish that both the vocals were a little higher.

Next up was Of Mice & Men, who also are a metalcore band but with more groove elements. This was my second time seeing this band and their stage presence has improved immensely, especially lead singer Austin Carlile's vocals. The band started with the ever popular, "O.G. Loko," which sent the crowd into a frenzy. Towards the end of the song, the band had the crowd do a "Wall of Death," splitting the crowd right down the middle with fans charging in and colliding with each other on cue.

Almost every song they played that night came off their most recent album, "The Flood," which I am perfectly fine with. The songs ranged from the heavy, "Product of a Murderer," to the bouncy and groove fueled, "Ohioisonfire," to the sing-along anthem, "Let Live." The band ended with their most popular song, "Second & Sebring," a song originally about Carlile's now deceased mother, dedicated to former Suicide Silence lead singer Mitch Lucker. The crowd sang every word of the song and it was incredible to hear this reaction for a band that was not even headlining.

As good as those bands were they paled in comparison to A Day to Remember. As the lights dimmed, the crowd exploded. The band started the set with a newer song, "Violence (Enough Is Enough)." Though the song only came out five months ago, the crowd knew the chorus word for word. This trend continued throughout the night with every-



Lead singer of 'A Day to Remember,' Jeremy McKinnon, leads the crowd to sing along with him.

Photo by Erica Lauren courtesy of byricalauren.buzznet.com

one singing every word of every song.

Lead singer Jeremy McKinnon took a lot of time talking and interacting with fans, rather than rushing through the set. On that note, McKinnon's voice was perfect throughout night. A Day to Remember surpassed the energy the two previous bands showed and when it came time for the encore, the crowd responded four different chants. It started with the typical "One more song," then there was a "USA" chant, followed by "We

will rock you," and finally, "ADTR." The band played four songs for their encore including two acoustic, which was a nice change of pace. They ended the night with two of their biggest hits, "All I Want" and "The Downfall of Us All."

Overall, it was a fantastic concert and the best I have been to so far in 2013. It is going to be hard for any crowd to match the intensity and passion of A Day to Remember's show. □

Google Glass to revolutionize Porn

By Micah Raimo
Special to the RamPage

Move over Oakley's Sunglasses, Google's new voice-activated eyewear may not only revolutionize communication but also put directing porn in the hands of the common man.

Previously, the only access the viewing connoisseur had to the porn industry was behind a black curtain in a video store. Now Google Glass makes the game more accessible for everyone.

People can do more than make a risky personal video; the glasses also allow people to enter the industry as both actors and directors without bulky equipment.

For the aspiring filmmaker, the gadget specs rival most digital video cameras on the market. Its filming resolution is 720p (the low end of the high definition spectrum) while pictures are shot at five megapixels. The fancy eyewear has 16GB of storage along with instant file sharing to Facebook or any other third party website. All of these attributions are perfect for the Amateur Porn circuit.

The Porn Industry can be pretty difficult to manage and the funds to fuel a website could be pretty steep. Most of the costs go to third party crew members. With Google Glass, most of those jobs are in the hands of the individual.

Most of the time, the team consists of a one man camera crew and a credit-card charging website generally geared to the male populous.

In directing anything, equipment and the crew can make or break production. Cameras can be bulky and cameramen can be imposing while filming the dirty deed. Proximity can be an issue. Since the camera is in the eyewear with silent command options, the third party camera man can disappear out of the moment. The only way to know

if one is being filmed is a little red dot above the camera lens.

The range on the camera in the Google Glass is six to eight feet, giving the option to go from first person to a third party director, opening the filming options for the wearer. Once commanded, the director doesn't need to say action while getting action.

For some, amateur porn can range from a lame webcam strip show to a dimly lit angled view in a hotel. The worse shot videos are the ones with the single spotlight in the dark, viewing only the dirty deed crotch shot. With the wrong equipment, your post will fall flatter than old champagne. The competition can be, well, stiff.

Amateur porn in essence is normal people trying to do what the professionals get paid for. Granted, some are good but those are few and far between.

Amateur porn genre is further subcategorized into Reality and Point of View (or POV) genres.

For POV, the camera man watches the lady act as dirty as possible. The lady becomes his half hour party favor. Reality Porn literally is a bunch of guys, a camera and a gimmick. MILFHunter and BangBros are two of the many examples of this Reality gimmick genre. This subcategory tends to last 45 minutes to an hour because most women are subjected to an interview that weasels into intimate questions.

The fancy shades are an instant one purchase porn production: shoot video, pictures and upload movies to a website. Anybody can turn their one-night stand into a success. Purchasing the new \$1500 eyewear will make a Porn director in Amateur porn out of any schmo. Keep in mind this is nothing new to the industry. Google Glass will grant easier access to making porn. □

Phoenix from page 14

are comprised of many different parts, all arranged to blend together. At the same time, the musical themes are very repetitive.

Almost every track, with the exception of one, seems to start with a cascading electronic keyboard riff and a heavy synth pad. Add another layer of keys on top of that, some electric guitar, and Mars' unmistakable vocals on top. The chorus was full of catchy hooks descending right back into their usual keyboard driven sound.

The vintage, psychedelic feel of the album had a catchy vibe, but eventually the tracks all sounded the same. The only track that broke the mold was their seven-minute title track "Bankrupt!" This was the most intricate song on the album, played with multiple time signatures, melodies and instrumental

parts.

Phoenix had their style down pat. They did not waver from their distinct formula of composition and arrangement. Each track was cohesive and nothing felt like it didn't belong. The album is a classic case of too much of a good thing.

A band so committed to their style ought to be recognized. Their instrument creativity sprinkled throughout the album made for a few nice surprises. Phoenix fans will be pleased with their commitment to their distinct style, but casual listeners might feel ready to listen to something else. Overall, a mighty fine job done by our French friends, but maybe add a little variety next time. □

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Golf recovers from a rough start

By **Jana Squire**
RamPage Reporter

The Victor Valley College golf team took some hard hits this year losing five players including the star player, Bobby Sole.

Bobby Sole broke his collar bone in a snowboarding accident about eight weeks ago. Two other players did not do well in fall semester classes so they were deemed ineligible to play due to grades.

One girl could not play because of out of state tuition expenses and another girl hurt her back swinging her golf club.

Although VVC's golf team lost player's this year, they still competed in The Conference Finals.

"Out of five teams VVC is placed fourth," said Gregg Combs, coach for the golf team.

Combs believes next year will be much better for the golf team.

"We are recruiting harder this year trying to get kids to come play for VVC," said Combs. "I believe we will be competing for first or second place next year."

The team will have four of the five players' back and the only player not returning is star player Sole; he graduates this semester.

Sole started playing golf when he was about seven years old and he is disappointed he could not finish out his last year at VVC on the golf team. He put much effort into pre-season practice showing good results just to have it taken away by a broken bone. It's possible that if not for his broken collar bone he probably would've taken first place at the conference finals.

"Don't go snowboarding during any game season," Sole said.

Three women and three men play for the golf team. VVC does not have a women's team so the women must play under men's game rules

The six players are shooting 100 so the coach must use 105 or 110 as a score. They could've been using 80 if not for the loss of players.

"It's all about the kids, and we have fun," said coach Combs. "We are representing VVC well, not quality of play but the quality of the kids is good." □

VVC Rams lose again as pitching balks

By **Mario Gonzalez**
Sports Co-Editor

While sitting at the bottom of the Foothill Conference and having only three games left to play, the Victor Valley Rams baseball team headed into a tough three game series against the current Foothill Conference champs, the San Bernardino Valley Wolverines.

On March 23, the Rams lost 10-5 to the visiting Wolverines in what seemed to be an error-filled first couple of innings as they tried to fight their way back throughout the game.

"They're a good ball club, they have always been a good ball club. They have some arms this year, good defense, good bats and that's what you need in baseball. If you got that then the result is, you know, a 10-5 win today and conference championships. That is what we are trying to get to," said head coach Jesus Beltran about their opponents.

Through the first four innings, the Wolverines proved just why they are this year's Foothill Conference champions. Sophomore infielder Joseph Szczepanski led things off for the Wolverines, doubling to left center field. After a single down right side and a reach on error by VVC, freshman third baseman A.J. David was walked on a ball four, bringing in the first run of the game. On the next at bat, sophomore Brandon Kinser grounded out into a double play, but that would be enough to bring in another run, giving the Wolverines the quick 2-0 lead.

Scoreless in the first, the Rams managed to get their bats swinging in the second inning after the Wolverines brought in three more runs in the top. Leading off, freshman infielder Chris Solis singled to left field. After a fly out and a strike out, freshman catcher Logan Young singled up the middle which advanced Solis over to second

base. Freshman infielder Rudy Jimenez hit an RBI single right up the middle, bringing Solis home and advancing Young over to second. A strikeout would then end the inning, SBVC with a commanding 5-1 lead.

The Wolverines put two more runs on the board in the third and fourth innings. The Rams brought two more runs of their own in the bottom of the third, sophomore outfielder Tyler Spotville annihilated the ball towards left center field for an RBI triple bringing home freshman infielder Cesar Valenzuela. Next at bat, Solis hit an RBI single towards right field, bringing the runner home from third. At the end of three innings, the Wolverines still well ahead, 7-3.

Heading into the bottom of the sixth inning, SBVC leading 9-3 after hitting a 2-RBI homerun in the fourth, the Rams looked for a big inning of their own to get back into this game. After two walks and a single up the middle, Sophomore catcher Chad Howard grounded into a fielder's choice which would be enough to bring one run home and advancing runners over to first and third. One out and two runners on, Valenzuela grounded out at first, advancing Howard over to second and bringing Jimenez in from third base, the score now being 9-5, in favor of the Wolverines.

In the seventh inning the Wolverines would score one last run in the game, clinching the win for SBVC and yet another loss for the Rams this season.

"Pitching was off today; our starting guy was just off and this is probably his first bad outing all year. Defensively, we gave away a couple runs early in the game and then we kind of picked it up towards the end. They had some good arms and their starter (pitching) was pretty decent. It was just an up and down day, today," said Beltran.

□



Recent games and final standings

Baseball		Softball	
Apr 16	at Rio Hon- do <u>L, 10-4</u>	Apr 3	at Barstow <u>W, 21-7</u>
Apr 18	Rio Hondo <u>L, 5-1</u>	Apr 5	Desert <u>L, 17-0</u>
Apr 20	at Rio Hon- do <u>L, 12-5</u>	Apr 10	at Mt. San Jacinto <u>L, 16-12</u>
Apr 23	San Bernardino <u>L, 10-5</u>	Apr 12	at Antelope Valley <u>L, 7-3</u>
Apr 25	at San Bernardino <u>L, 11-0</u>	Apr 17	San Bernardino <u>L, 11-2</u>
Apr 26	San Bernardino <u>L, 13-5</u>	Apr 19	Rio Hondo <u>W, 4-3</u>
Overall : 4-32 Conference: 1-23		Overall : 9-26 Conference: 4-10	

Baseball season ends on foul note

By Todd Hadler
Sports Co-Editor

The Victor Valley College Rams baseball team's season has come to a close. The team ended their season with a 13-5 loss to the San Bernardino Valley College Wolverines on April 26.

It has been a disappointing season for the Rams as they end the 2013 campaign with a record of 4-32, with a conference record of 1-23, placing them at the bottom of the Foothill conference.

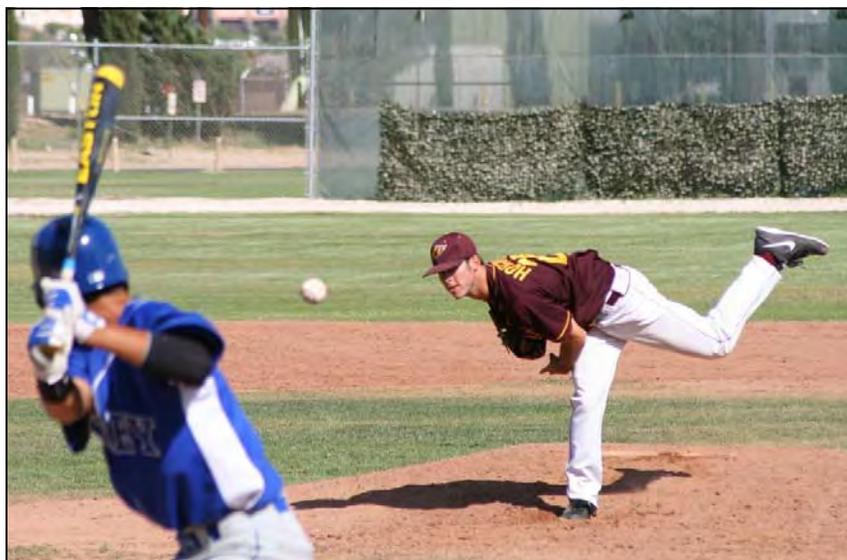
"With the guys that we had, the camaraderie we had, the talent we had, the season was just a little disappointing. I thought we would be better off than where we were," said Coach Beltran.

The Rams finished a three game series with the Wolverines. The Rams lost both games



Sophomore Chad Howard had a .253 batting average to end the season as well as have a .356 on base percentage. Coach Beltran called Howard the team MVP for the season.

Photo by Todd Hadler, Sports Co-Editor



Sophomore Justin Hotchner pitched two and a third innings and only gave up two hits.

Photo by Todd Hadler, Sports Co-Editor

with a score of 10-5 for the first game and 11-0 for the second. The game started off with a bang when Wolverine first baseman Joseph Szczepanski hit a scorching double right down the third base line. Rams pitcher Matthias Leyva was unfazed however, as he set down the rest of the Wolverines one-two-three in the first inning. The Rams started off well in the first in-

ning when second baseman Chad Howard had a great at-bat on route to a walk. Wolverines pitcher Brandon Kinser followed Leyva's footsteps and got out of the inning quickly. Coach Beltran had some very kind words for Howard after the game.

"If I had to pick an MVP for our team, it would be Chad Howard. He comes out every single day and gives all he has.

He is a great kid and I wish I had 25 of him," said Beltran.

The Wolverines put the first runs on the board after Kinser singled to start off the inning and after right fielder Brett Torrence was hit by a pitch. Third baseman Josh Alonzo singled up the middle to bring in Kinser and give the Wolverines a one run lead. Wolverines put another run on the board after shortstop Mike Trevino grounded into a double play, which brought in Torrence.

Wolverine left fielder A.J. David singled up the middle in the top of the third to bring home the Wolverines third run of the game. Two batters later, with David at first and catcher Ryan Miller at second, David attempted to steal second. There was some miscommunication between Rams shortstop Adolfo Espinoza and second baseman Howard. The ball ended up go-

ing between both, allowing Miller to score giving the Wolverines a four run lead. The Wolverines added two more runs in the fourth inning after a Kinser single, which scored two.

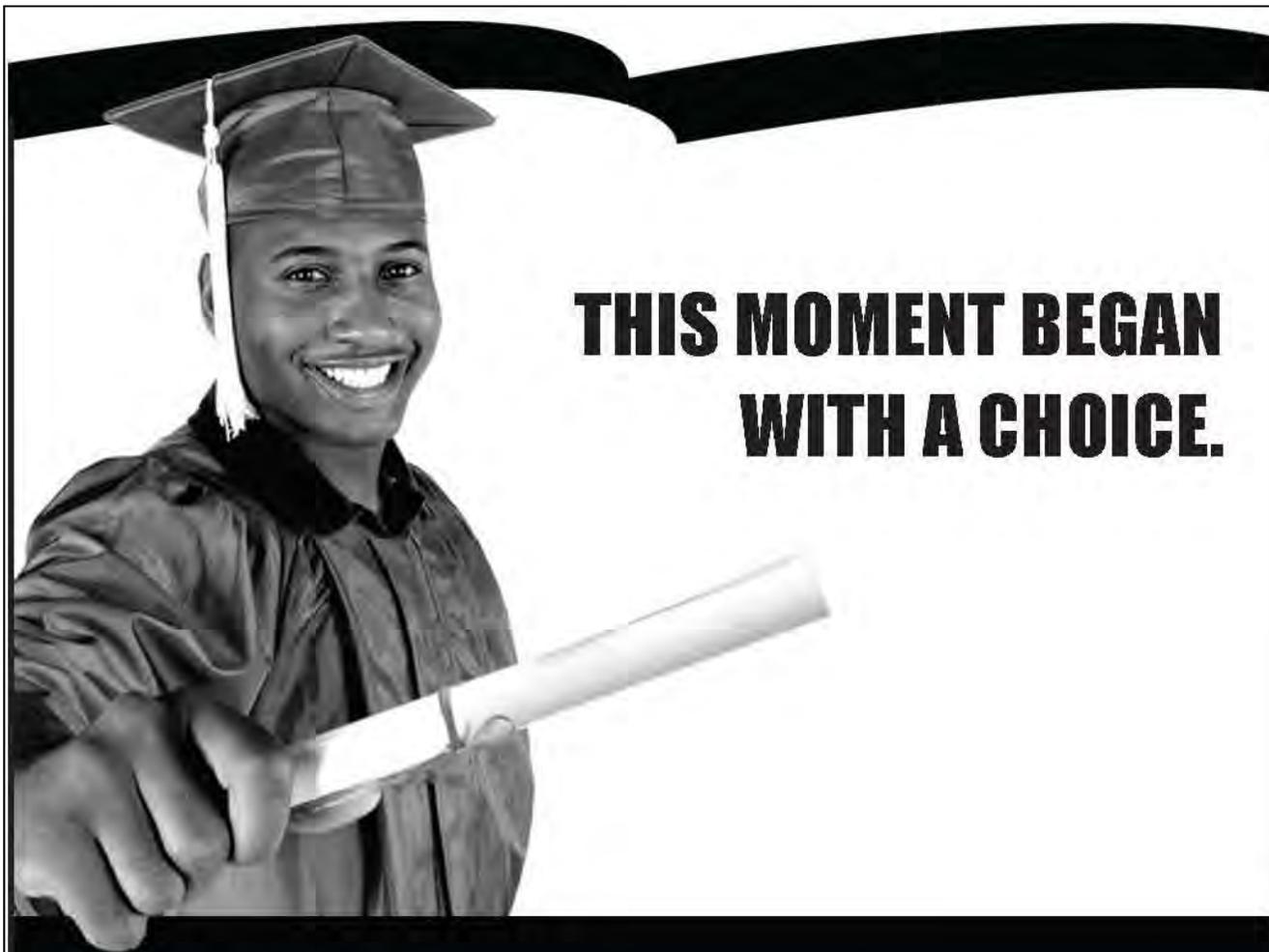
The Rams remained hitless until the bottom of the fifth. First baseman Thomas McCarty started the inning off with his first triple of the year. Designated hitter Chris Solis then singled through the left side, scoring McCarty and giving the Rams their first run of the day. The Wolverines answered back with two more runs in the top of the seventh, with the score at 8-1.

The Rams scored three runs between the seventh and eighth inning. Espinoza hit a sacrifice flyball to score Solis in the seventh. McCarty hit a monstrous double to left field to score left fielder Tyler Spotville and third baseman Cesar Valenzuels.

McCarty would then come in to pitch in the top of the ninth. The Wolverines would end up scoring five times in the inning, ending with a final run count of 13. The Rams put up one run on a passed ball in the bottom of the ninth inning. The Rams season ended on a called third strike to Howard.

"For next season, everything needs to be improved. Our pitching did good for the majority of the year then we kind of drifted off on that. Our hitting struggled all year, our defense struggled all year so we're going to focus a lot on those two aspects of the game for us and come back strong next year," said Beltran.

□



**THIS MOMENT BEGAN
WITH A CHOICE.**

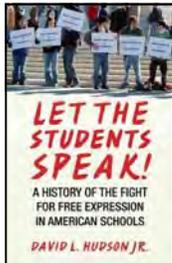
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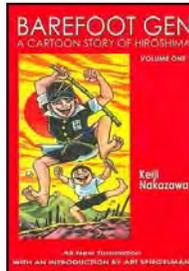
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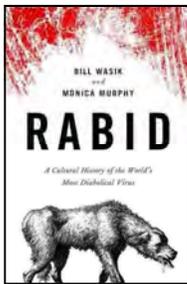


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Mission Statement:

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 faculty and students on campus.

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

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

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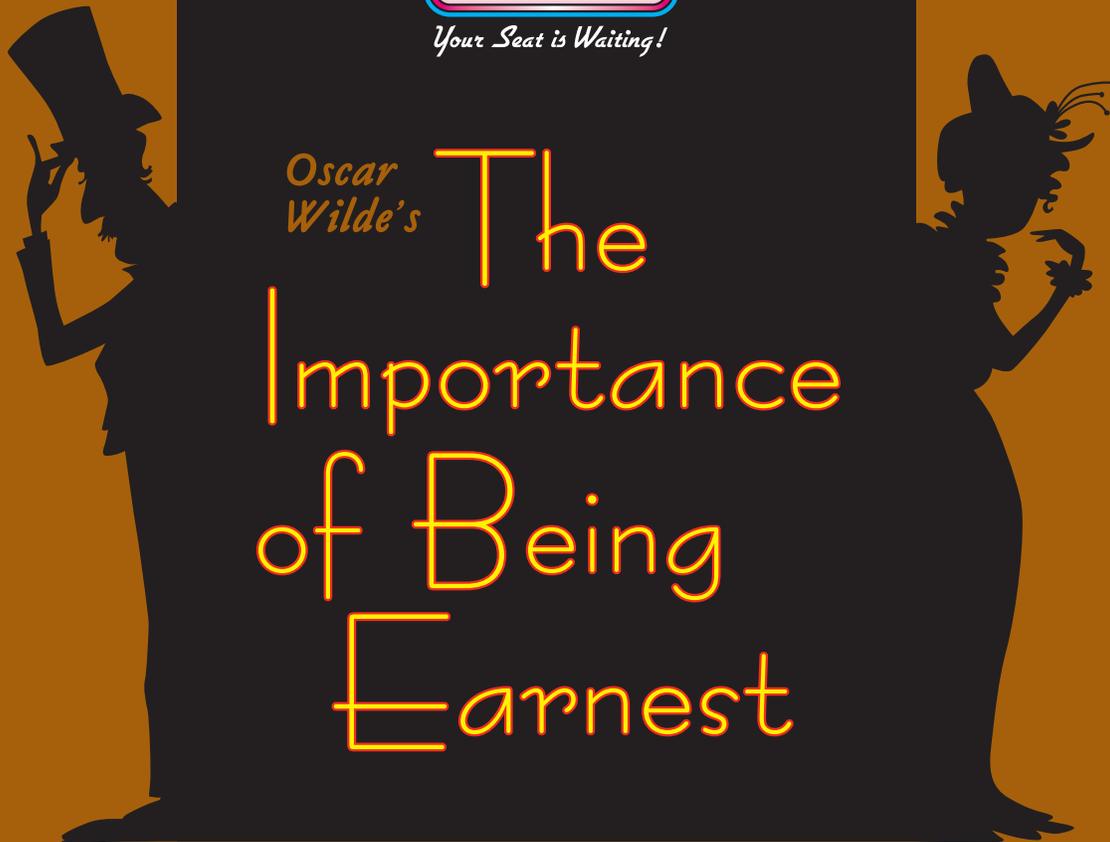
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