



VALLEY LIFE: MANDALORIAN
THIS NEW “STAR WAR” SERIES HAS
PLENTY OF ACTION AND BABY YODA.



SPORTS: BASKETBALL
LADY MONARCHS ARE JUST IN THE
BEGINNING OF THEIR SEASON.

Dreamers in for uphill fight on DACA

Arguments began Nov. 12 as Supreme Court Justices hear a case that could leave thousands of Dreamers stateless.

SOLOMON SMITH
POLITICAL NEWS EDITOR

Three cases seeking to keep DACA alive arrived at the Supreme Court and many are concerned that a right leaning court could end protections for Dreamers.

Opening statements began Nov. 12 as counsel plead their cases for the fate of the DACA program. Martin Batalla Vidal, a named party in McAleenan v. Vidal, is an undocumented immigrant living in New York and one of the five originators of the Vidal suit. He explained his thoughts on the case in an interview with Amy Goodman from Democracy Now.

“We couldn’t believe that undocumented were suing the government,” said Vidal, “for fighting for something that we think is right.”

In a 2017 memo, cancelling the program, the Trump administration argued that the program is unconstitutional. They have not been able to provide adequate explanation as to how it is unconstitutional. Lower courts from California, New York and Maryland disagreed. As the case worked its way up to the Supreme Court, Trump continued to attack the law through Twitter.

“President Obama said that he did not have the right to sign DACA, that it will never hold up in court. He signed it anyway,” tweeted Trump. “If the Supreme Court upholds DACA, it gives the President extraordinary powers, far greater than ever thought.”

Defenders claim it was a political stunt designed to garner support from the president’s base and violates the Administrative Procedure Act. In the same Democracy Now interview, Trudy Rebert, from the National Immigration Law Center, called the White House defense “unreasoned.” Her organization has its own suit before the Supreme Court on the same issue. She was, however, cautious about the outcome.

“I think we’ll have to wait and see what the decision says when it comes out,” said Rebert. “I was really struck that



VALLEY STAR | SOLOMON SMITH

SUPPORT- Messages of solidarity adorn the sidewalk in front of the Campus Center, supporting DACA students at Valley.

I think the justices across the court really understood the human interests that are at stake here.”

During the opening statements, Justice Sonya Sotomayor made it plain how she saw the case.

“This is not about the law,” said Sotomayor, according to the Washington Post. “This is about our choice to destroy lives.”

During President Barack Obama’s administration, it all began with a presidential announcement on June 15, 2012. Congress refused to move on the issue of Dreamers, illegal immigrants brought to the U.S. as minors, and Obama moved to create special rules for them. Dreamers would apply for exceptions allowing them to go to school, hold jobs and generally operate out of the shadows. Their Dreamer status has to be renewed every two years. The Trump administration rescinded DACA as part of an effort to

crack down on immigration.

The case will not only determine the fate of about 689,800 “active DACA recipients as of Sept. 4, 2017” according to Fact Check.org, but could also set the tone for the current wide-ranging immigration fight. The White House has implemented new rules and sanctions limiting the number of refugees, cracking down on legal and illegal immigration. If DACA is removed, Trump could wield the fate of Dreamers as a bargaining chip over Democratic rivals. A Pew Research Center Poll shows the majority of Americans — 67 percent of those asked — want to find a solution that helps Dreamers stay legally.

Justices are expected to vote along party lines, with Justice Robert Kavanaugh remaining the likely swing vote. Protesters amassed outside the steps of the Supreme Court, Dreamers worried about their future, and pro-

tests continue throughout the country. Support for these cases has garnered scores of amicus briefings, according to SCOTUSBlog.com.

Valley College had hopeful messages about DACA written on sidewalks in front of the Community Center Building. The messages were part of a movement across the LACCD to show support for these affected according to Javier Carbajal-Ramos, the Dream Resource Center counselor.

“We want to help those students be prepared by knowing their rights,” said Carbojal.

He also points out the greater support of the LACCD. Chancellor of the LACCD Francisco Rodriguez has consistently shown his support for DACA students through public letters of support.

Decisions for these cases are not expected until the spring session of 2020.

2019 Fall Final Schedule

DAY CLASSES

Day and Date Of Final Exam	MONDAY DEC 9			TUESDAY DEC 10		
Time of Exam	6:30am - 8:30am	9:30am - 11:30am	12:30pm - 2:30pm	6:30am - 8:30am	9:30am - 11:30am	12:30pm - 2:30pm
Normal Class Schedule	6:30 – 7:55 MW 6:45 – 7:55 MTWTh	9:40 – 10:50 MTWTh 9:40 – 11:05 MW 9:40 – 10:55 MWF 9:40 – 12:10 MW	1:00 – 2:10 MTWTh 1:00 – 2:25 MW 1:00 – 2:15 MWTh 1:00 – 3:30 MW	6:30 – 7:55 TTh	9:40 – 11:05 TTh 9:40 – 10:55 TThF 9:40 – 12:10 TTh	1:00 – 2:25 TTh 1:00 – 2:15 TThF 1:00 – 3:30 TTh

Day and Date Of Final Exam	WEDNESDAY DEC 11			THURSDAY DEC 12		
Time of Exam	8:00am - 10:00am	10:30am - 12:30pm	1:00pm - 3:00pm	8:00am - 10:00am	10:30am - 12:30pm	1:00pm - 3:00pm
Normal Class Schedule	8:15 – 9:25 MTWTh 8:00 – 9:25 MW 8:00 – 9:15 MWF 8:00 – 10:30 MW	11:20 – 12:30 MTWTh 11:20 – 12:45 MW 11:20 – 12:35 MWF 11:20 – 1:50 MW	2:20 – 3:30 MTWTh 2:40 – 4:05 MW	8:00 – 9:25 TTh 8:00 – 9:15 TThF 8:00 – 10:30 TTh	11:20 – 12:45 TTh 11:20 – 12:35 TThF 11:20 – 1:50 TTh	1:45 – 3:10 TTh 1:45 – 3:00 TThF

EVENING CLASSES

CLASSES MEETING AT 3 PM OR BEFORE 5 PM			CLASSES MEETING AT 5 PM OR BEFORE 6 PM			CLASSES MEETING AT OR AFTER 6 PM		
Class Meets	Exam Date	Time	Class Meets	Exam Date	Time	Class Meets	Exam Date	Time
M	M Dec 9	4 – 6pm	M	M Dec 9	4:30 – 6:30pm	M	M Dec 9	7 – 9pm
T	T Dec 10	4 – 6pm		T Dec 10	4:30 – 6:30pm	T	T Dec 10	7 – 9pm
W	W Dec 11	4 – 6pm	W	W Dec 11	4:30 – 6:30pm	W	W Dec 11	7 – 9pm
Th	Th Dec 12	4 – 6pm	Th	Th Dec 12	4:30 – 6:30pm	Th	Th Dec 12	7 – 9pm
MW	M Dec 9	4 – 6pm	MW	W Dec 11	4:30 – 6:30pm	MW	M Dec 9	7 – 9pm
TTh	T Dec 10	4 – 6pm	TTh	Th Dec 12	4:30 – 6:30pm	TTh	T Dec 10	7 – 9pm

In the event of a conflict, speak with your instructor to schedule an alternate time to take the final.

Keys to online success

Weekend Computer Coding Boot Camp offers mobile app coding instruction.

JERRY OUGH
STAFF WRITER

The Valley College Computer Science Department recently threw open the doors of the Engineering building to the public and offered a free weekend computer coding class for both experienced programmers and beginners alike.

The goal of the class was to teach attendees how to write computer programs for mobile and online applications. The 12 hours of instruction featured hands-on coding sessions with teams of students working on projects. Organizers offer the coding camp as a way to encourage attendees to consider enrolling at Valley.

Computer Science and Information Systems Department Chair Michael Rahni said the coding boot camp was open to both college and high school students as well as members of the community.

According to Rahni, the class is part of a Computer Science Department initiative focused on preparing students for job opportunities.

“There are lots of high paying jobs but they require technical skills and the computer field covers different job prospects everywhere,” said Rahni. “Information technology is leading other job sectors in job opportunities. Everywhere you look, there’s a computer program, there’s software, there’s a need to develop and write the codes, test the codes and run them on different devices.”

Rahni was especially excited about the coding camp because he said students did not need previous computer experience. He said the collaborative projects assigned to teams of students are a valuable opportunity for novices and experts to work together.

Rahni said the class covers the basic mechanics of coding and introduces a simple programming environment for students. He added that anyone with programming experience will learn something new, and the more advanced programmers are a great resource for beginners.

Valley computer science major Zachary Gunning said even though he has more advanced skills and knowledge, the coding boot camp was something he was still eager to do.

Adam Makhyoun, a former Valley student and UC Santa Barbara graduate, stopped by the camp to pick up a few tips.

“I just want to enhance my coding knowledge and maybe make some applications,” said Makhyoun. “Coding has no limits. It lets you use your creativity in any way you can.”

Valley will offer the boot camp in the spring semester. Those interested can email the department at codeacademy@lavc.edu.

Monday, December 9 to Sunday, December 15

To use the schedule below:

- Locate the day and hour of your class on the grid.
- Days of the week are abbreviated M T W Th F for Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday.

- Except for classes of less-than-semester length, the LAST DAY OF REGULAR INSTRUCTION IS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8.
- Classes meeting less-than-semester length will have the final exams at the last meeting of the class.
- FINAL EXAMINATIONS MUST BE HELD ON THE DAY AND TIME SCHEDULED AND IN REGULARLY ASSIGNED CLASSROOMS.
- FRIDAY CLASSES will have their final during the regular class meeting on December 13.
- SATURDAY CLASSES will have their final during the regular class meeting on December 14.

Business owners advise future entrepreneurs

The Business Department and club bring business saavy professionals and students together.

GABRIEL ARIZON
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Valley College's Business Administration Department and Business Club held its fourth annual conference recently, giving its over 250 attendees several different sessions in which to learn from business professionals and discover special programs at the school.

Taking place in the Business Journalism Building on Nov. 22, the three-hour long Business Conference started late in the morning. Attendees included not only Valley students and faculty, but students from Birmingham Community Charter High School, Woodbury and Pepperdine universities. For the first hour, guests attended one of five different breakout sessions, which included guidance on accounting, finance, management, real estate or marketing.

The session on management was presented by Valley Professor Jack Condon and the owners of Priscilla's Coffee, Mark and Shannon Hartmann, who have operated their coffee shop for over 30 years. They described the many difficulties



SEMINAR- Valley Proffessor Jack Condon overlooks a conference in the Business Journalism building.

of running a small business, from competing against a Starbucks nearby to many of their customers — who are writers — leaving during the Writers' Strike in 2007, nearly closing the shop. Shannon admitted they almost lost their house at one point.

"I think you have to have a little bit of fight in you," said Shannon. "I think you have to be tenacious [enough] where you don't give up. Follow your gut, if

you think your gut works."

Despite their challenges, the couple has persevered, making their business successful. The Hartmanns gave advice for attendees to run their own business, such as the importance of having a cash flow and not taking customers for granted.

"Things are going to go wrong," said Mark. "Don't let it overwhelm you. Sometimes, you have to be willing to accept

things get in your way."

After an hour break for lunch, three different sessions were offered: Jumpstart your Career in Social Media Marketing, Entrepreneurship Boot Camp and Business Entrepreneurship Retreat. The latter, also hosted Condon, featured seven Valley students that had participated in the program.

The retreat, which takes place in the Business Journalism

building during the spring semester, is a six-week course "about self-discovery." The upcoming retreat will be the third one, and each has been organized by Condon. During the program, he helps students learn eight mindset lessons, such as taking advantage of opportunities, persistence and community.

"It's not about starting a business," said Condon. "It's really about taking control of your life and doing what makes you happy."

After attending Valley 10 years ago, Condon said that he still possesses a student mentality, which he brings to his teaching. He uses his experience as a student — like worrying over financial aid or transferring — to connect with others and get them to open up.

"Everything I do, I try to do it based on my experience," said Condon, " what I think would be beneficial to students in the end."

Student speaker Gurpreet Virdi described how she had become depressed after coming back from a trip to India unsure where her future was heading. Virdi attended a previous Business Conference where she learned about the retreat.

"Before, it was hard to take action towards things, such as education," Virdi said. "Now I'm constantly taking action, constantly looking for opportunities. If I want something, I really have to go for it. It really transforms every single part of your life."

Another speaker, Matthew Middleton, told his story about how the retreat motivated him to take action. Deciding to go into business consultation, he was told by a teacher he needed a master's in business administration (MBA). Rather than give up, Middleton pushed forward. He will be pursuing his MBA at Woodbury in spring.

"By the end of the retreat, it felt like a safe place to let my defenses down more and talk more about how I feel a lot of the time," said Middleton. "It opened up the avenue that, while I feel weak, these people can talk about their problems ... and it was this openness that allowed me to come out of my shell."

To sign up for the retreat, email Condon at condonja@lavec.edu. Students will receive an email in the spring semester. While there is no deadline, the retreat will only take up to 20 students.

Valley upgrades active shooter drills

The Valley Star and Deputy Pastrano talk active-shooter protocol and safety.

CESIA LOPEZ
STAFF WRITER

In light of California's most recent school shooting at Saugus High School, active-shooter training and drills on campus will get an upgrade in 2020.

"Could it happen? Yes. The possibility is there. In any of the nine [LACCD] campuses it's open and the possibility for a real life active shooter situation happening is pretty high," stated Deputy Pastrano, who had just returned from an active shooter drill at Valley that day. "It's a matter of when it will happen, not a matter of if."

According to The New York Times, authorities are reported to have thwarted two other potential school shootings in

the Los Angeles County since the deadly shooting on Nov. 14 which left three dead and three more injured. Both schools that received the criminal threats, Animo Mae Jemison Charter Middle School and Knight High School, are within a 50 mile radius from Saugus High.

"Look around. [Avoid buildings with windows], lock the door and barricade it," said Deputy Pastrano. "Shooters, for the most part, look for easy targets. So make it hard for them. Silence your phones, turn off the lights, and stay away from the center of the room." He advises students to get to know the campus as they are walking around, and to have a plan of action if anything does happen. Run, hide and fight is the motto Deputy Pastrano and his team

are teaching.

Eventually there will be a large-scale active-shooter training that will involve the entire campus. Currently, training is relegated to lockdown drills in specific buildings at Valley as the district is dividing training into different sections.

The Daily News reported that beginning in the 2020 school year, LAUSD will be required to hold at least one lockdown drill each semester and LACCD campuses will be tested yearly on "emergency response and evacuation procedures, including appropriate drills, exercises and follow-through activities." Schools will also need to have a plan that quickly moves students off campus in the event of an emergency.

"Knock on wood and hope



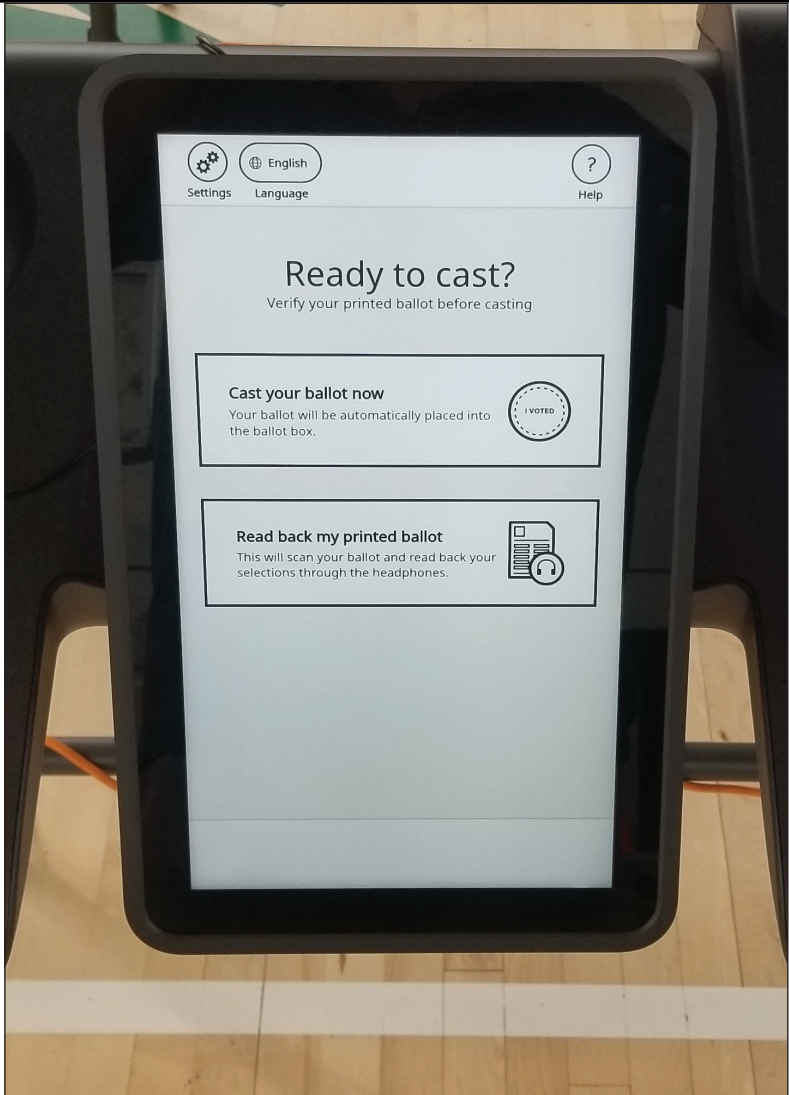
DRILLS- Sheriffs train in a lockdown drill in an air base to prepare for the event of an active shooter.

that this never happens but that's why we're trained and training always, we're preparing for that. And if it ever happens, we'll do our best to minimize the injury," said Pastrano "We're here [on

campus] 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days. So as soon as we get the call we will respond immediately."

If there is an emergency and it is safe to do so, call the

Sheriff's Office at extension 2911 from any campus phone or 818-947-2911 from a personal cell phone. Do not assume that someone else has reported the incident.



POLLING MACHINE- Digital touchscreens paired with multilingual options will replace paper ballotsmaking it easier for voters.

L.A. County modernizes voting system

New electronic equipment, and more polling places are just a few things making it easier to vote next year.

JERRY OUGH
STAFF WRITER

The way people in Los Angeles County have voted for the last half century has now changed in three fundamental ways which will modernize and expand how citizens can cast their ballots at the polls.

New ballot marking devices, voting centers and expanded days for voting will be made available county wide for the March 2020 California primary election. Voters will have 10 additional days prior to the election. There is no longer just one polling place available in a voter's neighborhood. More than 4000 traditional polling places in L.A. County are being replaced by up to 1,000 voting centers available to any voter. The L.A. Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk's office will open 250 voting centers 10 days before election day and, by election day, registered voters will be able to walk in to any of the 1000 voting centers to cast ballots or take advantage of same-day registration.

The voting machines have also been modernized. Gone are the days of ink spots or punching holes in paper. Voters will be handed a blank ballot when they walk into a voting center. It is fed into a ballot marking device that prints out a plainly-worded ballot which is then fed into a secure

collection box at each station. The devices, which resemble large tablets, are in over a dozen languages and accessible to voters with disabilities.

The changes hold the potential to dramatically increase the number of registered voters as well as significantly improve voter turnout.

In June 2018, the number of Californians who turned out for that primary election was 37 percent of the state's eligible voters. Seven million ballots in that election. It was the highest number of ballots cast in a non-presidential primary since 1998 and the third highest in a California primary. Los Angeles County only managed a 28 percent turnout, but that figure was still considered an improvement over past elections. In the June 2014 statewide primary, voter turnout had dropped to 25 percent and L.A. County's turnout was barely over 14 percent.

"Increases in voter participation likely depend on the extent to which we can make voting relevant to a broader population of the electorate," said L.A. County Registrar Recorder and County Clerk Dean Logan after the 2014 election.

Logan and his staff have been working for 10 years on making that goal a reality.

"We wanted to look at it more holistically so," said Logan. "in addition to replac-

ing aging equipment, what else to change about the model of voting to make it relevant and sustainable."

At a recent mock election inside Sherman Oaks Community Center gym, Logan spoke about the changes that could transform the way votes will be cast in L.A. County. According to Logan the old system was not intuitive or user friendly and does not allow flexibility for language and disability access. Under the current federal and state voting rights acts, according to Logan, the county is required to provide election materials in 13 languages in addition to English.

"This new system allows us to comply with those federal and state standards," said Logan, "but also gives us the flexibility to offer other languages that we know are prevalent in our communities."

Voters will be able to switch back and forth between English and their native languages while casting their ballots.

"One of the things we learned in our research in working with voters is that many voters are fine with the contest and the candidates in English," said Logan. "But when you get to the policy measures, the state ballot measures, initiatives and referendums, those can be very complicated and people like the ability to go back to their original

language to better comprehend what's being asked of them."

All the new ballot marking devices are wheelchair accessible and feature audio capability, tactile keypads with braille buttons and are tiltable touch screen devices which make it much easier for people with dexterity issues.

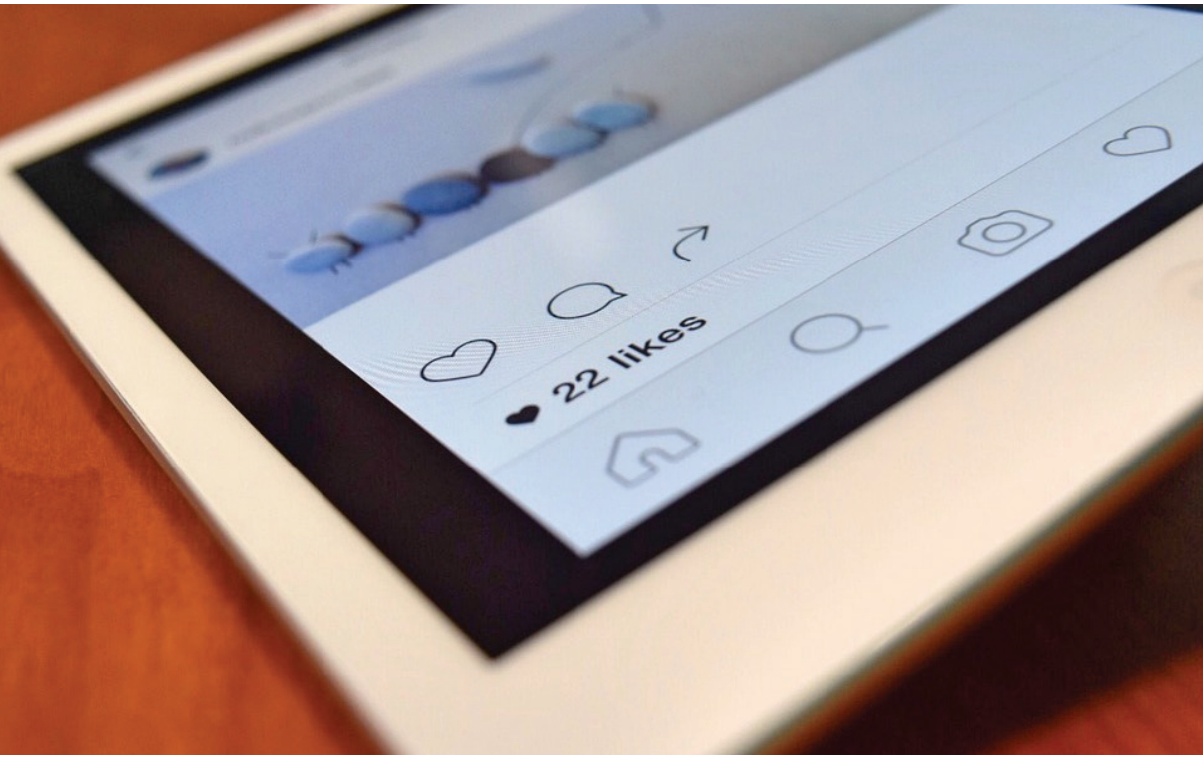
The new voting devices print out paper ballots so voters can see exactly what or who they voted for before the ballots are turned in.

Voting system security was also taken into consideration during the planning and design of the new machines. The ballot marking devices are "air gapped," meaning the devices are not connected to the internet. Hackers were invited to test the integrity of the system and he pointed out that the paper ballot system will enable the County to conduct audits to determine if ballots have been counted accurately. Reseda resident Sally Stevens came to the mock election at the Sherman Oaks Center and said she's pleased with the changes in the way L.A. voters will be able to cast their ballots.

"It's fun, it's easy, it's interactive and I'm glad to see it's so well integrated," said Stevens. "Hopefully people will find it easy, not just to use the technology, but the idea that they can vote at any vote center anywhere in the county."

To like or not to like, Insta takes stand

Instagram removed the likes from its app but the pressure to be perfect still remains.



LIKES- Social media giant Instagram is changing the way likes will be shown on the app. PIXABAY | WOKANDAPIX

SAVANNAH SIMMONS
OPINION EDITOR

With Instagram being a place where insecurities come out to play when measuring up to others, making likes private will not alleviate stress for users. “The idea is to try to depressurize Instagram, make it less of a competition,” said CEO Adam Mosseri to WIRED. “Give people more space to focus on connecting with the people that they love, things that inspire them.” The goal seems clear, but it will not work if the number is not completely out of sight. Users will still be able to see how many likes they receive which means that the likes, or lack thereof, can still mess with the user. Just because others cannot see their likes does not mean that the pressure will suddenly vanish. The pressure comes from comparing oneself to others on

Instagram. Users will not stop looking at other posters’ content without wishing they too were racking in hundreds of likes on their selfies like the influencers that they follow. There are still avenues where people find ways to compare. Comments, which are left less frequently than likes because leaving them requires a little more effort from followers, could become the new form of measuring engagement.

“The idea is to try to depressurize Instagram, make it less of a competition,”
- Adam Mosseri

The main question relating to influencers is how they will be able to show engagement analytics. Instagram influencers have

a big problem with likes going away but influencers are actually a big part of the apps problem. Users are trying to chase down the perfect idea of how life is supposed to be but it has been revealed that many of these lives are fake. Former Instagram model, Essena O’Neill, recognized this problem and famously quit instagram back in 2015 because of the mental hardship she faced trying to keep up with the facade of a perfect life and body. Her fake persona took a toll on the then 19 year old, who decided she was tired of playing the influencer roll and stopped using the app entirely. Now, five years later, she is back, not on Instagram, but her own website where she shares her opinions and explores ideas she finds interesting and thought provoking. Jameela Jamil, though a celebrity and popular actress,

keeps it real on her Instagram and fights to help young people recognize that the app does not have to be phony. She has constantly called out influencers and celebrities that promote toxic products and created a movement that contributed to changes in how the app is viewed. The Good Place actress started her body and mental positivity account, i_Weigh, which is a place for women to be proud of themselves for things other than just their looks. Jamil’s account helped spur the ban of promoted weight loss products and cosmetic procedures to be shown to anyone younger than 18 years on the app. In a survey conducted by The Manifest, 55 percent of 502 people said that they “don’t care” about the likes on Instagram going private. It also showed that 25 percent said they disagree and 20 percent agree with the platform’s decision. With most of the people not caring about the change, the benefits Instagram is talking about may be going over users heads. For the everyday user, this could either boost self esteem which is the goal, or it could leave a void the likes once filled. On the plus side, users may feel more inclined to post those pictures of clouds and sunsets they love so much, or a funny photo of themselves when they were young, since no one will know that there were only a few likes to the post which used to be viewed as embarrassing. Though that freedom of posting whatever is a lighthearted idea to play with and something fun to look forward to, it does not mean that photos putting Instagrammers best selves on display will not continue to be at the forefront of the app.

A note to vegans -- lighten up

One whiny vegan’s lawsuit manages to exemplify the stereotype of the rabid vegan -- its got to stop.

SAVANNAH SIMMONS
OPINION EDITOR

Vegan options in restaurants and grocery stores are not just for vegans; they are for everyone to make a healthier choice, so raging when something is not prepared on meat free surfaces creates unnecessary problems. In November, Burger King was sued for false advertising when a customer Phillip Williams alleged that his Impossible Whopper was prepared on the same grill as their other meat products without his knowledge. Keeping a “strict vegan diet,” he was alarmed and filed a lawsuit against the fast-food chain.

“That is what veganism is about, welcoming the small choices that help change, not badgering anyone or place for not converting 100 percent.”

Filing a lawsuit is taking this too far. Legal action of this magnitude brings the wrong attention to the entire vegan movement and jeopardize the spread of these products to other restaurants. The cost and time it would take to purchase and find room for a new plant-based-only grill may prevent restaurants from having these types of products altogether. Not even having an option could save them from having to deal with the backlash from episodes like Williams.’ Plant-based products are for anyone who has decided

to make healthier choices and everyday vegans should support these decisions. Places like Del Taco, Chipotle and Carl’s Jr. have all recently introduced vegan-friendly options to their meat-heavy menus and vegans are not the only ones ordering. A plant-based order at Burger King may lead to someone choosing these alternatives at other restaurants or grocery stores. That is what veganism is about, welcoming the small choices that help change, not badgering anyone or place for not converting 100 percent. One cannot expect people or companies to commit to veganism so fast, be grateful for the progress they have made thus far because it could either continue to grow, or be stopped dead in its tracks out of fear of outrage. A vegan who feels they would be offended by learning their meal was not fully prepared on a non-meat grill or surface - after the fact - need not go to restaurants with a couple of vegan options, but places that fully cater to the vegan diet and lifestyle. Walking into a fast food chain, diners should recognize that this is not a place where a vegan is king, it is where people with no dietary restrictions go for a quick bite to eat.

THE ISSUE
Vegan

According to NPD, 16 percent of consumers have eaten plant-based foods recently. In addition, plant-based alternative sales are up 30 percent year over year.

Contraception on demand is now just one mouse click away

With everything being readily accessible on the Internet, it is no surprise that online birth control is revolutionizing women’s health.

SARAH BEST
STAFF WRITER

Despite what our administration believes, the quality of women’s reproductive health is not something to be compromised and thanks to online birth control, women can continue exercising their fundamental right. Revolutionary companies like Simple Health and Pill Club have remodeled the convenience of modern birth control, paving the way for what some are calling “telemedicine.” With no appointment needed, patients are able to communicate with real doctors while getting the most convenient and high quality care exclusively online. Insurance isn’t necessary to qualify and the progressive services provided allow access to multiple forms of contraceptives at little to no cost which are delivered free

and discretely to your door. According to the Simple Health website, all of their medications and contraceptives are sourced from “high quality pharmacy partners who are licensed to ship to you.” The company even offers the option of sending your Simple Health prescription to your local pharmacy for pick-up upon request. But despite all the countless benefits provided by contraceptives, Trump has misogynistically and repeatedly threatened to withhold funding for other valuable birth control providers like Planned Parenthood. The Affordable Care Act (aka “Obamacare”) is meant to legally require health insurance companies to cover the cost of most birth control methods like the pill, diaphragms and rings, sterilization procedures, and emergency contraceptives like Plan B. However, our current presidential administration is

viciously targeting ObamaCare in an attempt to deny millions of women’s basic reproductive health care. In accordance to Planned Parenthood, “The Obama administration worked out an accommodation allowing religious-affiliated employers and schools to refuse to cover birth control on religious grounds, while ensuring their employees would still have health coverage provided directly by the health insurance company.” Donald Trump’s provision to the Affordable Care Act is intended to give every employer, religiously-affiliated or not, the right to opt out of aiding in contraceptive coverage on the basis of religious and moral grounds. This creates an added unnecessary difficulty for women trying



PILLS- Women can get birth control through online stores. PIXABAY | GABISANDA

to obtain birth control who want to exercise their fundamental right of deciding when they do or do not want to have a child. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released a study stating that, “Sixty-two percent of women of reproductive age are currently using contraception.” In the event that Trump’s barbaric provision passes, companies like Simple Health and Pill Club are still there to provide millions of women with the reproductive health care they rightfully deserve. Healthcare is regulated differently by each state and not all of the doctors working for Simple Health are licensed in all 50. Though the company is currently prescribing birth control in only 19 states, they are working to expand to the rest of the country in addition to others. Pill Club, on the other hand, delivers to nearly 40 states.

Online contraception provided by Simple Health and Pill Club are free with most insurances and you are evaluated by a real, board certified doctor. The companies allow full transparency and even encourage their patients to check the doctor’s medical license verification on the state’s medical board website for peace of mind. These amazing benefits only beg the question further as to why the current administration would attempt to rob millions of women of such services? Women’s reproductive health isn’t something that should be compromised or toyed with. The best quality care provided by revolutionary telemedical teams like Simple Health and Pill Club are granting even more women the option of obtaining contraception at little to no cost, a right that shouldn’t be negotiated.

VALLEY VIEW

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT ANY ADMINISTRATION HAVING THE POWER TO RESTRICT WOMEN’S REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH?

TEXT BY SARAH BEST AND LEXIE MACIAS |
PHOTOS BY MICKIE SHAW



“I don’t think anybody should be able to tell us, as women, what we can and can’t do.”
- RAELYNN SHLEPPEY, STUDENT COACH



“I feel like they shouldn’t. I think that when you do that, it makes their lives intrinsically harder.”
- KHAMANI GRIFFIN, COMMUNICATION



“I don’t think it’s fair, man or woman. They shouldn’t have a say in what we can do with our bodies.”
- RUBY MORENO, RESPIRATORY THERAPY



“There shouldn’t be any influence and it should actually be made easier.”
- BRYAN MARTINEZ, BUSINESS



“I don’t think they should make it that hard because it’s already like that.”
- SHAZIA HLSSIAN, FASHION DESIGN

EDITORS NOTE

The views expressed on this page are solely those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Valley Star, its instructors, editors, staff or those of Los Angeles Valley College, its administration, faculty, staff or students.

4

POLITICS

Trump impeachment inquiry rundown

After weeks of public hearings and opposing narratives, the impeachment inquiry enters its next phase with both sides ready for battle.

SOLOMON SMITH
POLITICAL NEWS EDITOR

The public impeachment hearings against President Donald J. Trump have ended but many are still confused about the players and the end result.

Held before the House of Representatives' Intelligence Committee and chaired by representative Adam Schiff (D), the open hearings revealed the disturbing details of two separate systems for the advancement of two different agendas; one of the United States support of Ukraine and one guided by the president through his agent, former mayor of New York Rudy Giuliani, to solicit an announcement of an investigation against the Bidens.

Ukrainian foreign policy experts William Taylor, Jr. and George Kent, deputy assistant secretary of state for European and Eurasian Affairs, were the first to publicly share their worries about the president's behavior on Ukraine. Their "strong concerns" stemmed from the president's withholding \$44 million in military aid designed to help the country defend its borders from Russia.

"I had a phone conversation with Mr. Danyliuk," wrote Taylor, "... He conveyed to me that President Zelinsky did not want to be used as a pawn in a U.S. re-election campaign."

Taylor was also concerned

testimony revealed there was a concerted effort by agents of the president to make the aid package contingent upon Ukrainian president agreeing to investigate former Vice President Joe Biden and his son Hunter Biden. Taylor and Kent indicated that Trump's behavior was inappropriate and agreed that it was against American interests.

The most damaging points

“He conveyed to me that President Zelinsky did not want to be used as a pawn in a U.S. re-election campaign.”

-William Taylor

for the president are the corroborating evidence piling up from legitimate experts who were privy to the two channels of communication, and the discovery of others who may have a more direct link to the phone calls between the president and his advisers. Taylor mentions one of his assistants overheard the president on the call and that he was more interested in

mounted a vigorous defense of the president and held firm against impeachment. Rep. Jim Jordan (R), a new member of the intelligence committee, kept his questions and comments in line with the rest of his party.

The Republican defense has come in two parts. First, they have pushed a widely debunked conspiracy theory which place servers containing evidence of interference in American elections in the Ukraine, and second, they have floated the idea that Biden sought to fire a Ukrainian prosecutor for the purposes of protecting himself and his son from investigation.

Both theories have been proven false by the FBI and CIA. Conspiracy theories have been the lynchpin for Trump's defense as he and his defenders claim that the "favor" on the call was about Biden's corruption and Ukrainian election interference. This defense has been problematic as it raises more questions than answers; why ask a foreign power to investigate Americans, why push something that has been proven false and why now, almost four years later? Another problem for Republicans center on the testimony of Gordon Sondland. He initially testified that there was no collusion and claimed there was no evidence of it, but as the testimony of others contradicted his, he began to change his tune.

Republicans have also endeavored to distract from the testimony by calling the process into question. Initially, they claimed it was unfair to have "secret hearings" ignoring the fact that the inquiry is not a hearing but a gathering of evidence. It was also not hidden. Although behind closed doors to the public, half of those present were Republican. When Republicans pushed for a more public hearing, it was brought to a vote by Pelosi — no Republican voted for the motion.

Day two adds weight to day one

After a rough day for the president, things get considerably more dire with testimony from former Ukrainian Ambassador Marie Yovanovitch. Her testimony brought to light deep problems in the administration's State Department, and the attempts to smear her personally after her firing from her post in Kyiv last May. Trump tweeted negative comments about her testimony, according to reporting from the New York Times.

"Everywhere Marie Yovanovitch went turned bad,"



PUBLIC DOMAIN

HEARINGS - Star witness in the impeachment hearings, Marie Yovanovitch speaks at a public event.

tweeted Trump.

Her opening statement began by clearly stating when she was involved in the Ukraine and refuting fake news stories about her involvement in directing Ukrainian prosecutors with a "do not prosecute list." It was clearly focused refuting any second-hand testimony.

"I arrived in Ukraine on August 22, 2016 and left Ukraine permanently on May 20, 2019," said Yovanovitch in her statement. "There are a number of events you are investigating to which I cannot bring any first-hand knowledge."

Yovanovitch's testimony on Friday was another straw on the camel's back, noting the involvement of Rudy Giuliani as a secondary, and seemingly, contrary alternate diplomatic route.

Giuliani pushed a smear campaign against her, making false claims about her behavior. He solicited a corrupt prosecutor from Ukraine to make false statements to the New York Times. She noted that she had only met Giuliani a total of three

times and had no idea why he "attacked" her.

What she did have knowledge of was the president's behavior towards those in the government who anger him. The president mentions her two times calling her "bad news" on his July 25 phone call with Zelinsky, adding that she would "go through some things." The comments left Yovanovitch cold, feeling intimidated by the president when she read the comments in the call's transcripts.

I was shocked and devastated that I would feature in a phone call between two heads of state in such a manner," said Yovanovitch.

During her testimony, Trump continued to tweet about Yovanovitch. The tweets were viewed by many Democrats as an attempt to intimidate a witness.

Yovanovitch's testimony added credence to the idea that Trump had been actively trying to cover up his questionable activity in Ukraine through agents like Giuliani. Testimony

(and more corroborated statements) could lead to another article of impeachment. So far, the Democrats have not stated clearly what, if any, articles of impeachment will be created.

Starting with President Ronald Reagan, Yovanovitch served 33 years as a respected diplomat working with Democratic and Republican administrations. Her family emigrated from Nazi Germany, according to her opening statement.

My mother's family escaped the USSR after the Bolshevik revolution, and she grew up stateless in Nazi Germany, before eventually making her way to the United States," wrote Yovanovitch. "Their personal histories—my personal history—gave me both deep gratitude towards the United States and great empathy for others—like the Ukrainian people—who want to be free."



PUBLIC DOMAIN

TESTIMONY- William Taylor, Jr., on of several who have provided devastating testimony against President Donald J. Trump.

with the president's attitude on a phone call which was overheard by his assistant. Taylor's

getting the Ukrainian president to capitulate to his demands and investigate a political rival.

The Republicans have

A primer on the impeachment process

A presidential impeachment is imminent and these are the facts followers should know.

SOLOMON SMITH
POLITICAL NEWS EDITOR

The U.S. Constitution is built on a system of checks and balances among the three branches government. The framers crafted a document that provides the guidelines impeachment.

Impeachment is the process of removing high ranking elected (but not always) federal officials from office and applies to more than just the president. Impeachment can occur at the municipal, state or county level, and is rare.

According to Ballotpedia, a bipartisan digital encyclopedia of American politics, of the 15 federal judges, two presidents, one senator, and one cabinet member who faced impeachment, only eight of the judges were convicted.

The Constitution offers about four lines on impeachment, which includes the familiar "high crimes and misdemeanors" clause. The Congressional Research Service describes the set of rules and guidelines for the impeachment process created from legal precedent and history.

The House of Representatives first investigate the alleged crime or abuse of power. This is done in the lower House and is solely to obtain,

discover and weigh evidence of wrong-doing. Afterward a report is made, it may be publicly available.

Although, at this point the president is being investigated it is not, formally, a trial. There is no defense, per se, but each party can suggest individuals to provide testimony. The committee turns over their findings to the public and then the next step is triggered — drawing up articles of impeachment. This is where the impeachment process truly begins.

House members in special committees take the testimony and evidence and decide if it is impeachable. Former president Gerald Ford, Richard Nixon's successor, describes the difficulty of defining impeachment.

"An impeachable offense is whatever a majority of the House of Representatives considers it to be at a given moment in history," said Ford.

This is what makes the process so muddled and political. Hamilton, however, made it clear in the Federalist papers that he was referring to the abuse of power

This broad definition stems from the "high crimes and misdemeanors" clause of the Constitution in Article II, Section 4. Impeachment of the president stems from the Constitution itself: Article I,

section 2, clause 5 Article I, section 3, clause 6 & 7.

Alexander Hamilton, in the Federalist Papers, explains that this does not mean crime as in statute, but "the abuse or violation of some public trust." It was left broad to give congress enough reach should a high-ranking official be found to misuse their office. Simply put, there does not have to be a crime to impeach the president.

These articles are created listing the crimes, or reasons for impeachment, by the House of Representatives. In this instance they could be thought of as the police and state attorney. Doing the preliminary investigations, compiling evidence for the crime and the write up of the Articles of Impeachment. These articles also include the findings of the House as well as the evidence that they used to come to their conclusion.

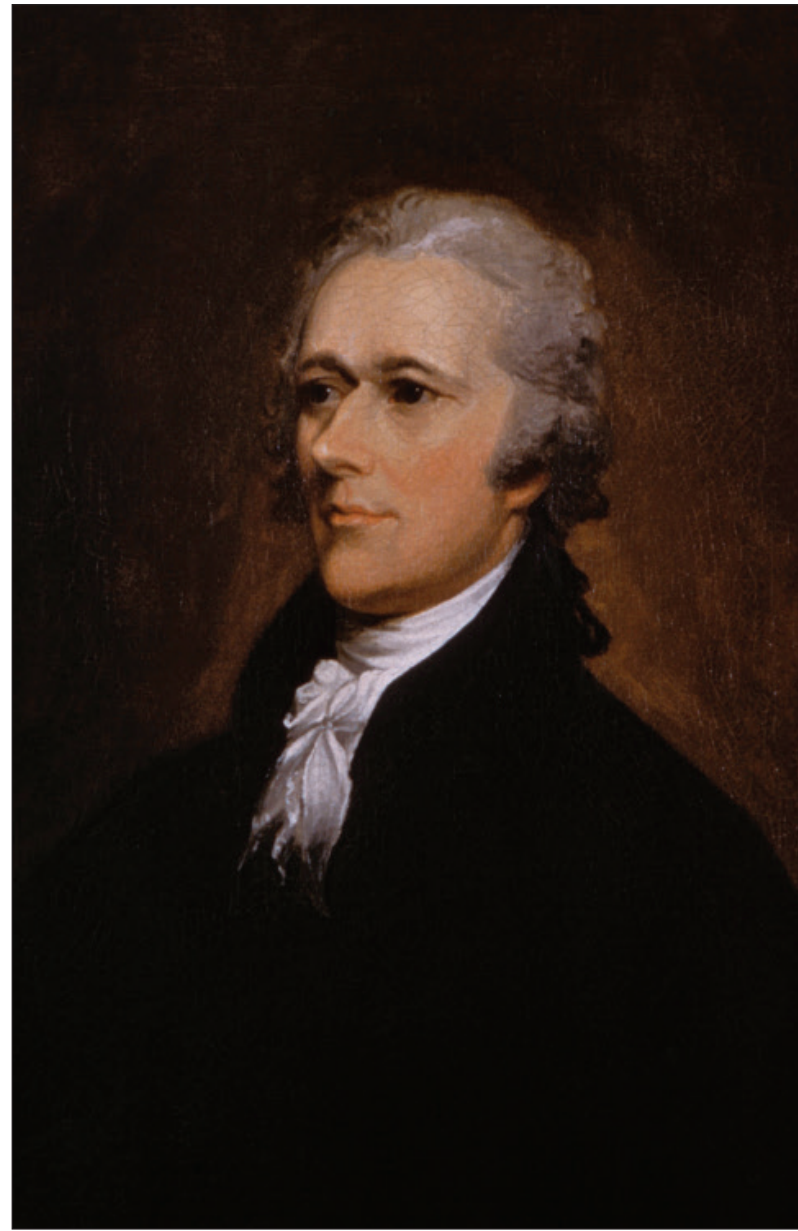
There are no real guidelines as to how to go about compiling the evidence, processing it and what the status of the president is during this time. Much of what is used as a guideline in this process comes from precedent rather than written law. but if a new problem arises the House must figure out the best, most fair way to move forward. This is the first place that talk of Constitutional law come in to play. The nebulous rules give the

president plenty of room to interfere in the process indirectly.

Here is an example from the current presidency. Trump announced that he will not work with congress as long as they are investigating him. This means that he could effectively cripple government in an effort to interrupt an investigation of himself.

Next the president is tried for impeachment. The president hires a personal lawyer and is deposed, the same as any other citizen, the difference being that the trial is held in the U.S. Senate. During the trial congress hears evidence from the prosecution and the president's defense. The constitution is specifically broad in some places and narrow in others to offer the flexibility that a living government needs. The problem here is that at times there is a build-as-you-go mentality for the handling of new situations.

They weigh both sides (as in a trial) and then make a decision. That decision can be anything from impeachment, to a censure by congress or nothing at all. Impeachment and removal from office does not bear any criminal conviction but the individual can be prosecuted under the law for any crimes committed while in office and can no long hold any high office in the public trust.



COMMONS

FOUNDER- Alexander Hamiltona framers of the Constitution.

Picturing the Vietnam War

One Book One College presented a talk with the author of a graphic novel.

AIMEE MARTINEZ
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

Hundreds of Valley College students gathered in Monarch Hall, where cartoonist Thi Bui recounted the story behind her illustrated memoir, “The Best We Could Do.”

As part of the One Book One College program, Valley College faculty and staff selected her graphic novel, which was read and discussed in numerous fall classes. One Book is a national common-read program designed to encourage literacy and academic dialogue through a shared reading experience.

“This is a book being read by the entire campus so to have more of a book-club feel,” said One Book coordinator Alicia Bien. “We wanted to have an event where we brought in as many people who have read the book and wanted to know more about it speak with the author.”

The graphic novel is a love letter to Bui’s parents that centers on the artist as she researches her past and explores the

memories of her family during war-torn Vietnam. As refugees, they would ultimately leave for America. Bui establishes herself as the protagonist allowing readers to connect with her experiences.

“[The memoir] was also a way for me to ask a lot of questions about my own parents and appreciate them in ways I couldn’t really do in real life.”

- Thi Bui

In addressing the audience, Bui commented on the diversity of the campus. She said she was glad to be able to cross cultures through her book. Excerpts from her novel were projected on

a screen as audience members voiced various characters.

“It started as revenge against all the bad Vietnam war movies I had to watch growing up,” said Bui. “Then as it evolved, it was also a way for me to ask a lot of questions about my own origins, learn more about my parents and appreciate them in ways I couldn’t really do in real life.”

Bui dedicated a chapter to her father as the hero. It also served as a tribute to Asian-American men who, in her words, “are often emasculated and belittled.” Through the process of writing, the differences with her father were resolved and their relationship was healed. The relationship with her mother, however, remains strained. Ultimately, this glimpse into her struggles has given Bui a better understanding and removed the resentment she had as a teenager.

She addressed her concerns about family separation, her exploration on the issue of deportation and the realization of how it was also affecting Vietnamese-Americans. The more she studied the topic

and the laws surrounding it, the angrier she became. She shared the account of a man who was arrested and taken away from his family by ICE because of a crime he committed, as a young, confused foreigner.

Audience member Ruth Morales said she sympathizes with the plight of migrants.

“My parents are also immigrants, so I understand how it’s also hard for people from other countries to come to the United States and feel discriminated against and starting a life all over again and trying to fit in,” said the 19 year old.

In order to erode the stereotypical images of Vietnamese people, Bui decided to replace them with illustrations of her own. She explained that by merely reading the story in prose, the reader might form images that are influenced by American movies.

“I think photographs don’t quite cut it in terms of bringing you close to people so hopefully this new medium is new and fresh enough to cut through those emotional scabs that we carry,” said Bui.



VALLEY STAR | GABRIEL ARIZON
SIGNING- Cartoonist Thi Bui signing copies of her graphic novel.



PHOTO COURTESY OF | DISNEY
SHOOTOUT- The Mandalorian fights his way through some Stormtroopers.

“Mandalorian” blasts its way to number one

This highly popular Disney+ show stays true to its roots and is a homecoming for fans of the original “Star Wars” trilogy.

MICKIE SHAW
MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Gritty, full of action, a bit of humor and with a massive amount of cuteness, “The Mandalorian” series stays true to the original “Star Wars” films and expands on the galaxy far, far away. The series is a mar-

velous homecoming for fans of the original “Star Wars” trilogy, young and old.

New characters and familiar ones from other “Star Wars” movies and series populate the world of “The Mandalorian”. The exciting battles and thrilling action rival any in a “Star Wars” movie. You feel involved with and care

about the intriguing and, in the case of the Mandalorian, complex characters. There is a moral center to the Mandalorian, and the Force is ever present. “The Mandalorian” is “Star Wars” at its best.

The creator of the runaway hit, and the director of two “Iron Man” movies, Jon Favreau is

also the show’s writer. Disney Plus’ marquee show was an instant success, ranking second in the rundown of top streaming shows after its premier. Within two weeks, “The Mandalorian” blasted “Stranger Things” ending its 22-week streak as the number one streaming show and making “The Mandalorian” the number one streaming show in the U.S. and in all four Disney Plus’ international markets.

“The show’s fresh angle, new stories, compelling characters and its western movie tone are expanding the established ‘Star Wars’ universe.”

The protagonist, Mandalorian, is a combination of Clint Eastwood’s the Man with No Name character and Indiana Jones. The bounty hunter, a fearsome killer, is not invulnerable. He finds himself on the receiving end of a beat down several times and even defeated by Jawas. In the fourth episode, Mando teams up with Kara Dune (Gina Carano), a former rebel soldier, to save a small peasant village from alien raiders. Shades of “The Magnificent Seven” are present. Mando even gets a beat down from Dune

when they first meet.

With four episodes streamed, the show’s fresh angle, new stories, compelling characters and its western movie tone are expanding the established “Star Wars” universe while staying true to its roots. The Mandalorian has the original “Star Wars” lived in look, situational humor and cool costumes and spaceships, and following in the steps of its ancestor it has lots of action. Within the first five minutes of the first episode, two space thugs attack Mando in a bar, and a deadly fight ensues. (Fights in bars seem to frequently break out in the “Star Wars” universe.) The foolish ruffians are soon beaten down and the brawl ends with one of the thugs cut in half. There is no close up of the severed body thankfully.

“Not since ‘Rogue One: A Star Wars Story’ has there been a ‘Star Wars’ film or series that has captured the feel, look, excitement and drama of the original trilogy.”

The action is never ending. Mando fights ice creatures, an enormous beast that looks like

a furry rhinoceros and 20 bounty hunters simultaneously. This guy can not catch a break.

In the first episode, Mando takes a gig for a bounty from Creef Karga (Carl Weathers), the head of the Bounty Hunter’s Guild: a union for bounty hunters. The client (Werner Herzog) is a mysterious man who is somehow associated with the now overthrown Galactic Empire. The client prefers the “Asset,” as he calls it, be brought back alive, but dead is ok, too. After a huge gun fight, Mando captures the asset only to find it is a child. Not just any child, however, but one of the same species as Master Jedi Yoda.

Baby Yoda, as fans are now calling him, is adorable. The child’s big doe eyes, oversized long ears, which bend and twist with the child’s emotions, little baby mouth and the cute little baby hairs on his head so surprises Mando, that he never considers killing the 50-year-old baby (Yoda was 900 years old when he died). Mando’s heart of gold has been revealed. This is just episode one, and the next three episodes are just as exciting and intriguing due to the mysterious Baby Yoda.

“Star Wars” is back. Not since “Rogue One: A Star Wars Story” movie has there been a “Star Wars” film or series that has captured the feel, look, excitement and drama of the original trilogy movies. With more episodes on the way, if “The Mandalorian” is a taste of what is to come, then fans will become fat, feasting on “Star Wars.”

“Frozen II” will melt your heart

An exciting new adventure into the unknown lands of Arendelle characterize “Frozen II”.

LEXIE MACIAS
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

The sequel to Disney’s highly successful “Frozen” is both heartwarming and entertaining as a result of exquisite storytelling, wonderful comedic relief and a new soundtrack of unforgettable songs.

“Frozen II” follows Elsa, Anna, Olaf, Kristoff and Sven as they embark on a journey to the Enchanted Forest, found north of the Kingdom of Arendelle, to find the mysterious voice that calls to Queen Elsa. Most of the original cast reprise their roles as characters from the first film, along with Evan Rachel Wood (“True Blood”) as Queen Iduna, the mother of Anna and Elsa.

The film had a few standout elements that demanded attention, those being the new chapter of this beloved story, Olaf’s perfectly-timed comedic one-liners and the remarkable new music. These three key features helped the sequel become a great film,

not just another good sequel to an amazing first movie. “Frozen II” in its entirety could have been a standalone film, with viewers fully understanding what is happening in the story without having seen the first film.

“This movie weaves together humor and storytelling in a way that definitely outshines its ... predecessor.”

The new chapter of the Frozen universe introduces viewers to the lands north of Arendelle, where the magical Enchanted Forest can be found and is home to the Northuldra people. Viewers also get a look at some of Arendelle’s history and the kingdom’s relationship with

the Northuldra people, who live together in harmony with the four magical, elemental spirits of the Enchanted Forest. The new lands hold a very important secret that will change the fate of Arendelle forever.

Just as he did in the first “Frozen” movie, Olaf steals the spotlight from the beginning to the very end of the film, with humor and a child-like realization that he is growing up. Olaf has many memorable scenes throughout the film, the most notable being when he hilariously recaps all the events of “Frozen” to the Northuldra people. The amazing acting chops of Josh Gad bring to life this silly and beloved character who can also put on a great musical number. This movie weaves together humor and storytelling in a way that definitely outshines its highly renowned predecessor and will be difficult for Disney to top.

The new soundtrack for “Frozen II” introduces viewers to an array of new songs that have depth, emotion and catchy

melodies. The most popular song on the soundtrack that was released before the film opened in theaters is “Into the Unknown” sung by Idina Menzel as Queen Elsa. Panic! at the Disco also recorded the popular song for the soundtrack, and their version is played when the credits roll at the end of the film.

With “Frozen II” exceeding the expectations of most viewers and likely to surpass the success of “Frozen”, it can be said that this sequel is certainly one of Disney’s best films. It further proves that the studio is successful at producing sequels that do not fall short of the first movie, and can even, surprisingly, be more successful.

VALLEY’S STARS

★★★★★
Rated PG
Worth the Money
Now Playing



PHOTO COURTESY OF | WALT DISNEY ANIMATION STUDIOS
FROZEN- The movie has grossed \$745 million worldwide.

Choreography awards honor the best in dance

Salsa, “Mary Poppins” and dancing flight attendants were big winners at this year’s World Choreography Awards.



VALLEY STAR | SOLOMON SMITH
AWARD- Glorya Kaufman (right) attending the awards.

MICKIE SHAW
MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Referred to as the Oscars of dance, the ninth Annual World Choreography Awards, honoring the best dance choreography in films, television and digital content of 2018, were recently

held at the Saban Theater in Beverly Hills. Salsa, hip hop and modern dance entertained an enthusiastic audience at the filled-to-capacity theater. Hosted by Heather Morris from “Glee” and more recently from the show “Raven’s Home,” the choreography awards celebrated creativity, innovation and excellence in

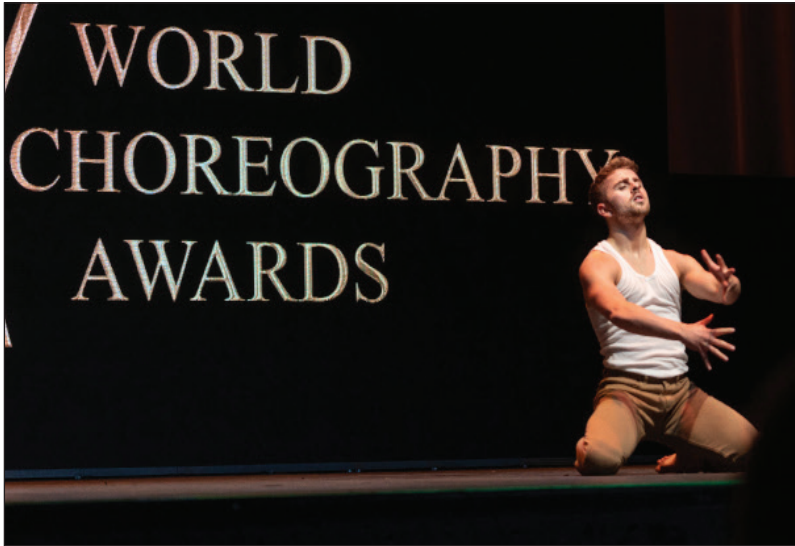
dance choreography. Choreos, the award’s name, were given in eight categories: feature film, music video, commercials, television reality show or competition, digital content, independent digital content, television episodic and television award show or special.

“Dance is magic.”
- Glorya Kaufman

Rob Marshall, John Deluca and their choreography team won Choreos for outstanding choreography in a motion picture for their work on the musical “Mary Poppins.” Outstanding choreography for a television reality show or competition went to the nine-time world salsa champions Argentinian Karen Forcano and Chilean Ricardo Vega for their crowd thrilling and acrobatic performance on “World of Dance.” Forcano and Vega opened the choreography awards dancing their nominated salsa performance. “We are really excited. This opportunity is really amazing,” said Vega. A big win in the music video category went to Mark Ballas

for Alexander Jean’s music video “Stampede” featuring Lindsey Stirling. The salsa-like performance had Jean and Stirling dancing while playing their instruments. A dark moment during the show came when it was announced that the winner of the outstanding choreography in digital content category, Ophelie Longuet, had died in July. The 41-year-old Longuet, a French dancer and choreographer from Nice, died in a multiple car accident in France. The video of Longuet’s remarkable underwater dance named “Ama” was shown in its entirety as a tribute — a performance that required her to hold her breath for six minutes. Philanthropist Glorya Kaufman was presented with The Next Frontier of Dance Governance Honor. A dancer in her youth, Kaufman has long been a patron of dance. The Glorya Kaufman Foundation supports the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and Juilliard. Kaufman was honored for her foundation opening the Glorya Kaufman School of Dance. The school is located at the 54,000 square foot Glorya Kaufman International Dance Center a state-of-the-art dance training facility. “Dance is magic,” said

Kaufman during her acceptance speech. Dancers from the school performed at the awards show. The Choreo was presented in the outstanding choreography in commercials category to Ashley Wallen for her work on the humorous Emirates Airlines’ ad, which beat an animated commercial of dancing GI Joe dolls. In the outstanding choreography in a television award show or television special, Napoleon, Tabitha Dumo and Kiel Tutin won for Jennifer Lopez’s performance at the “Billboard Music Awards.” Alison Faulk and Leo Moctezuma won the outstanding television episodic category for “It’s Always Sunny in Philadelphia.” “It’s so wonderful to have it recognized just because of all the hard work everybody put in to it,” said Faulk. The Awards were held Nov. 11. For a complete list of the World Choreography Awards’ winners, go to the World Choreographers’ website at www.worldchoreographyawards.com.



VALLEY STAR | SOLOMON SMITH
DANCE- Michael Dameski performs onstage at the awards.

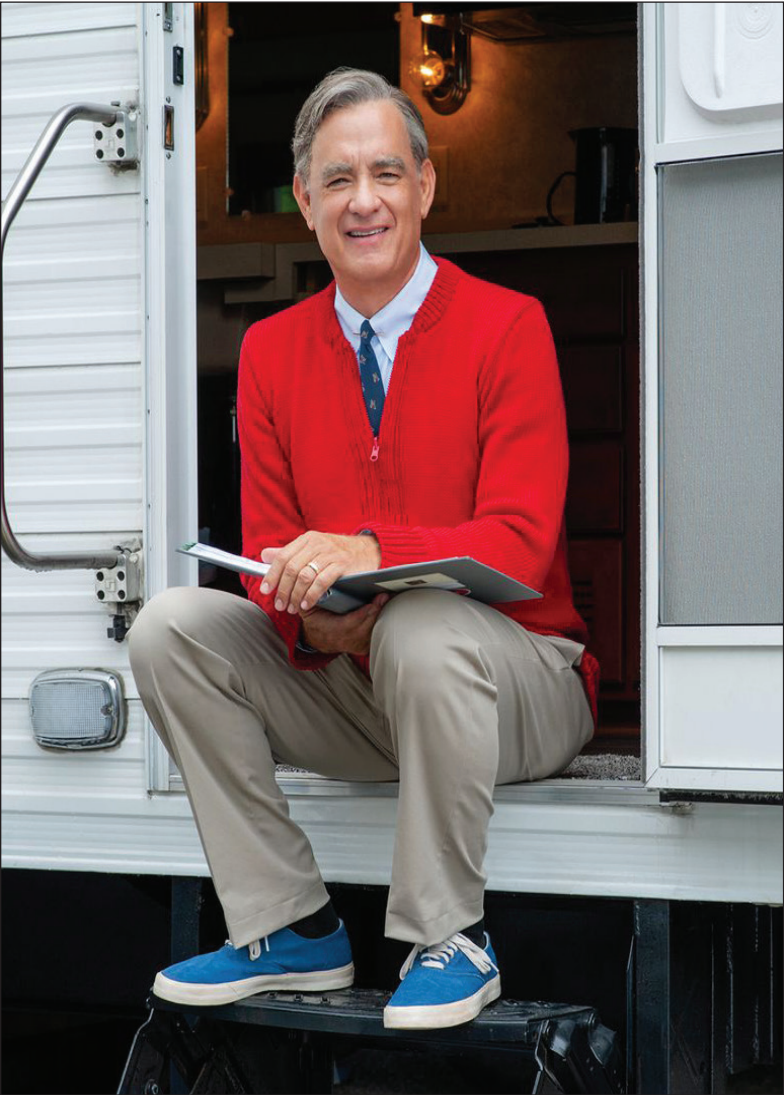


PHOTO COURTESY OF | SONY PICTURES
ROGERS- Tom Hanks plays the kind-hearted Fred Rogers.

Can you say ... uplifting?

The tale of a writer becoming friends with Mr. Rogers is a wonderful time for the family.

GABRIEL ARIZON
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

“A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood” tells the heartwarming story of the relationship between a cynical writer and one of TV’s most beloved icons. It is filled with uplifting and positive messages that Fred Rogers himself taught to kids for decades and that are just as relevant today. The nearly perfect imitation of Rogers by Tom Hanks combined with the vulnerability displayed by Matthew Rhys make this film one of the most wholesome movies of the year. Based on the story from a 1998 Esquire article by Tom Junod titled Can You Say ... Hero?, the movie follows award-winning magazine writer Lloyd Vogel (Rhys) as he is tasked with writing a profile piece on Rogers for an upcoming issue about heroes. Due to his extremely strained relationship with his father, Vogel is left embittered, a fact that is reflected in his writing. Other celebrities do not want to speak to him due to his reputation of putting his subjects in a negative

light, with Rogers being the sole outlier. Vogel begrudgingly accepts the assignment and approaches Rogers with a hint of cynicism in his tone and questions. However, through numerous interviews and gentle prodding by Rogers into his personal life, Vogel begins to open up and experience first-hand how one man’s kindness was able to reach millions of people. “[Tom] Hanks is a delight whenever he is on screen and [Matthew] Rhys delivers his own endearing performance throughout.” Rhys does a great job portraying Vogel’s bottled-up anger towards his father and the emotional walls he has set up around himself that keep him from expressing his feelings, as well as his vulnerable side when those defenses are laid bare.

Hanks’ performance as the kind-hearted Rogers is almost pitch perfect and is easily the highlight of the film. Hanks manages to get down the appearance, mannerisms, soft-spoken tone and calming aura that made Rogers such a pivotal figure for children and adults. The way he greets and connects with people on a daily basis is a joy to see, and the caring relationship he forms with Vogel as he helps to teach him valuable life lessons results in a couple tear-jerking moments. Though the voice may not match the original, it is clear that no one else could have played the TV icon nearly as well as Hanks. The film’s respect for Rogers goes beyond just Hanks’ portrayal, as it also pays plenty of tribute to the iconic show. When the movie transitions from place to place, it cleverly uses miniature sets and props that look like they were taken straight from his show. There are even some parts where the picture quality is given a grainy texture reminiscent of 1990s TV, making it appear as if the audience is watching another episode of “Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood.” Though the title is a reference to a line in the show’s open-

ing song, this film is not about Rogers himself. While he may be the highlight of the movie, he is sometimes seen as the side character to Vogel and his struggles in regards to his emotions and his family. It certainly makes for a good story, but Hanks’ wonderful acting makes it hard to not ask for Rogers to be on-screen more often. “A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood” works for both fans of Rogers and those who may not have ever heard of him. Its themes and lessons are easily understandable for kids, while the personal and family drama is enough to keep adults engaged. Hanks is a delight whenever he is on screen and Rhys delivers his own endearing performance throughout. Those looking for heartwarming, good time need to look no further.

VALLEY’S STARS

★★★★

Rated PG

Worth the Money

Now Playing

The “Doctor” takes a nap

This disappointing cinematic sequel to a classic horror film mixes old and new story elements haphazardly.

GENE WICKHAM
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

If viewers are looking for a true followup to Stanley Kubrick’s 1980 classic “The Shining,” this new cinematic experience, based on Stephen King’s 2013 novel “Doctor Sleep,” may leave some still searching for a promising sequel. On a higher level, “Doctor Sleep” tries to be a lofty metaphor of good versus evil but lacks emotional equality between the deeply conflicted Danny Torrance (McGregor) and the two-dimensional villains he is fighting against. This, and an awkward convergence of multiple storylines, leaves the viewer dramatically disoriented. Picking up where Kubrick’s film left off, the story follows young Danny, who continues to suffer from visions and nightmares due to his psychic experiences with his shining power which allows him to see the dead. Years later, a grown Danny, now

Dan, is a suffering alcoholic and drug addict. He finds security working as a hospice orderly where he helps patients deal with end-of-life issues, earning him the name Doctor Sleep. “The multiple storylines do not mesh until much later ... , causing a shallow dramatic lull and plodding action.” Meanwhile, a group of ancient supernatural beings known as The True Knot, led by arch-villainess Rose The Hat (Rebecca Ferguson), are roaming the country searching for children with supernatural powers, so they can kill them and consume their “essence.” Dan learns about Abra Stone (Kyliegh Curran), a 16-year-old girl with the shining and begins

to psychically communicate with her. They both sense a great evil emanating from The True Knot and decide to join forces to confront the evil threat. While the overall atmosphere of “Doctor Sleep” feels more fantasy than horror, one particularly brutal scene is the kidnapping and gruesome murder of a young baseball player by The True Knot. In an unnecessarily lengthy sequence, his bloody murder is sensationalized, leaving the audience disturbed. Director Michael Flanagan did a great job with juggling time and plot lines in “The Haunting of Hill House,” but in “Doctor Sleep,” the multiple storylines do not mesh until much later in the film, causing a shallow dramatic lull and plodding action. He does, however, take great pains to replicate visuals from “The Shining,” including look-alike actors, adding some authenticity. McGregor does an exceptional job as the older Dan, creat-



PHOTO COURTESY OF | WARNER BROS.
HORROR- Ewan McGregor plays a much older Danny Torrance in “The Shining” sequel.

ing a multi-layer character who goes from a pitiful soul to a spiritually self-confident man. Despite the lack of depth in the development, supporting players Rebecca Ferguson as Rose The Hat and newcomer Kyliegh Curran as Abra, still exude a strong female presence. Curran is a strong young woman, with enough smarts to stay one step ahead of the villains while Ferguson’s persona

drips pure arch-typical malevolence. “The Shining” had an underlying feeling of dread and paranoia, leaving audiences something to feel and think about. While the fans of the most recent book may find some redemptive elements here, “Doctor Sleep” as a film and sequel to the classic film, is not very creepy and fails to awaken any deep passions or lasting thoughts.

VALLEY’S STARS

★★★

Rated R

Not Worth the \$\$\$

Now Playing

Conti contributes uniquely

Punter’s yoga background helps football team with intagibles.

GENE WICKHAM
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

As one of the older members of the Monarch football team, 30-year-old Scott Conti brings a unique perspective to his mostly teenage teammates, from his passion for the gridiron and a background in yoga.

The NCAA has no age restrictions when it comes to playing college sports. Its main concern is academic standing and professional influences, opening opportunities for older students-athletes. Given this chance, Conti joined the Monarchs, but there was an adjustment period.

“The running was a lot,” he said. “The first time we did conditioning, I was close to throwing up, but I got through it.”

In his first year with the Monarchs, Conti is the team’s punter, at times shared those duties with teammate Howard Hobson, an Australian hailing from Perth, who is also on the field playing both offense and defense.

During this season’s first game, after Conti’s punt, he split open his thumb when he attempted to tackle an opposing player. The injury sidelined him for the second game, but he was back in form soon after.

The number of participants on the team this year is down and players need to help fill multiple positions to cover for injured teammates. Conti’s expertise centers on his punting ability, which he attributes to his experience with football in high school and yoga.

The certified yoga instructor teaches at Yoga NOHO Center and credits the practice for getting him in shape and focusing his mind.

Using his personal experience with Yoga, Conti has helped both coaches and players deal with the pressures related to the team and their unique problems.

During his junior year in high school, Conti, a multi-sport athlete, played on his school’s football team in Wellington, Florida. The summer before his senior year, he found his place on the team unsatisfactory and he withdrew.

“I wasn’t in the first-string group,” he said. “I wasn’t very happy about that. My mind was elsewhere.”

He went on to attend Florida’s Palm Beach State College where he earned an associate degree. After working as a bartender and writing a 120-page screenplay, Conti decided to move to California to promote his script and “try something different.”

After arriving in California in 2016, Conti became involved

with yoga on a whim, which helped him lose 50 pounds and overcome problems like addiction and ADHD. He went on to earn his 200-hour Yoga Teacher Training certification and became an instructor.

Developing an interest in acting, Conti met David Roundtree through his acting studio in North Hollywood. Roundtree, who was earlier involved with regional football, became the new special team’s coach at Valley and invited him to tryout for the 2019 team. Conti made the squad. Roundtree, who now coaches the kicking and punting team, acknowledges Conti’s help with the players.

“I’ve seen him out on the field with players, teaching them yoga moves,” Roundtree said.

Conti has also helped him with the team’s kicker, Alec Messing, who has autism. Conti has helped Coach Roundtree with Messing’s training since both he and Messing joined the Monarchs this season.

Conti hopes to play for the Monarch baseball team in the spring and return to football next fall. He intends to continue his business studies and transfer to a university.



INSTAGRAM | SCOTTCONTIYOGA
YOGA- Valley College football player Scott Conti does a handstand.



PHOTO COURTESY OF | DALE BECK
COACH- Head Coach Monica Hang talking to her players.

Lady Monarchs set for tip off

The Women’s basketball season is set to go underway.

VICENTE VITELA
STAFF WRITER

Tip off is almost here for Lady Monarchs basketball and this season the team is looking to go hard in the paint in hopes of a deep playoff run.

The Lady Monarchs are looking to make it a three-peat as Western State Conference Champions and match their success two years ago, which saw the team reach the state sweet sixteen. The “Reign of Hang” continues at Valley College as Head Coach Monica Hang returns for her 11th season with a 167-92 overall mark at Valley.

“The coaching staff is committed to teaching and developing each individual so they can learn and be at their best,” said Coach Hang.

This year’s lady Monarch team will see somewhat of a two to one freshman to sophomore

ratio, which includes two out-of-state players: one from Minnesota and one from Washington. Valley will look to repeat its success on defense from last year when they held opponents to 23 percent from beyond the arc. The stingy Monarchs only allowed an average of 54.9 points per game, good enough to rank ninth in the state.

“We have three returning WSC First Team All-Conference players which I never had before, so I am excited,” said Hang. “This team thrives off energy and defense, which is great because defense wins championships.”

On the offensive end, the Monarchs ranked in the top 40 in both 3-point and field goal percentages at 36 and 38 respectively, while averaging over 66 percent from the free-throw line. This year, the Monarchs are returning two key iron women in Rebecca Castillo, and Sophia

Hughes. Hughes averaged at least 34 minutes a game while averaging at least 10 points a night.

“Each individual must understand and live up to their role,” said Coach Hang on discussing what it would take for a deep playoff run. “They must continue to work hard, play smart and stay hungry to be great.”

Despite having a 10-17 record last season, the Lady Monarchs were able to remain 500 in conference play and came away with another Western State Conference title. However, their record failed to qualify them for a playoff spot for the first time in two years.

The coaches and players hope to bounce back and change that for the 2019/2020 season.



PHOTO COURTESY OF | DALE BECK
BASKETBALL- Forward Sophia Hughes and an opposing player go for the ball.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF | DALE BECK
TOP- Point Guard Brianna Torres makes a fast break for the hoop. BOTTOM- Freshman Taylor Vuong gets ready to take the shot.



The Valley Star

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
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GABRIEL ARIZON
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PHOTOGRAPHERS
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ADVISOR
BILL DAUBER

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Letters to the editor can be sent to: editor@lavalleystar.com or submitted online at www.lavalleystar.com. Letters must be limited to 300 words and may be edited for content. Full name and contact information must be supplied in order for letters to be printed. Send by Thursday for the following week’s issue.

LADY MONARCHS

Women’s basketball played their first game of the season against MiraCosta College on Nov. 16, losing 72-81.

Lady Monarch’s season record so far is 1-2, with their first win against Irvine College by 51-49.

On Dec. 5, Lady Monarchs will be playing in the Tom Gilcrest Invitational at College of the Sequoias against San Joaquin Delta College.



Sowing sustainable seeds

Since this past summer, a small group of Valley College clubs have been working together to make a self-sustaining watering system in the garden area. The Eco Advocates, Physics, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, STEM and Anthropological Clubs have each been using their free time to make this project a reality.

*Text and Photos by
Gabriel Arizon, Editor-in-Chief*



PLANNING- Evelyn Soriano (left) and Eddie Kaufman-Morrow (right) discuss the project.



PICKAXE- ASU President Elijah Rodriguez swinging a pickaxe to break up the hardened soil and dirt.



VOLUNTEERS- A couple of volunteers from the Physics Club, equipped with gloves and shovels, go to work on the mound of dirt in the greenhouse area.



PLANNING- Evelyn Soriano and Eddie Kaufman-Morrow talk about what work needs to be done and how it will look in the end.



TOOLS- Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society President Buddy Watson (foreground) and two volunteers break down the dirt.



LEADER- Eddie Kaufman-Morrow (left) directs the other volunteers, including ASU President Elijah Rodriguez and Treasurer Angelica Simityan, on where to dig under the supervision of a professor.