



VALLEY LIFE: ASU
ASU CANDIDATES ASK VALLEY STUDENTS TO VOTE FOR THEM.

The Independent Student Newspaper of Los Angeles Valley College



SPORTS: STEPHEN KNEZ
MONARCH OUTFIELDER MAINTAINS HIS OWN YOUTUBE CHANNEL.

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Officer convicted in George Floyd's death

Nearly a year after the killing of George Floyd enraged the nation, a jury found former Police Officer Derek Chauvin guilty on all three charges.



VALLEY STAR | AUSTIN GONZALEZ-ANGEL

PROTEST- Latori Green, founder of The Valley of Change, stands at the corner of Sepulveda and Ventura in Sherman Oaks to protest police brutality the day after Derek Chauvin is convicted of murder. Ever since the death of George Floyd, Green and her organization have posted up in front of the Sherman Oaks Galleria to advocate for the ending of police brutality. Green said she will not stop until serious police changes are made in Congress. Los Angeles, Calif. Wednesday, April 21, 2021.

GABRIEL ARIZON,
MARCOS FRANCO,
SAVANNAH SIMMONS
STAFF WRITERS

A jury found former Minneapolis Police Officer Derek Chauvin guilty on all three counts in the death of George Floyd Tuesday, nearly a year after the killing sparked

mass outrage and protest nationwide.

On April 20, a jury returned a verdict finding 45-year-old Chauvin guilty for the murder of Floyd in the second and third degree, as well as second-degree manslaughter. The decision was deliberated amongst jurors, a process taking a little more than 10 hours. Judge Peter Cahill charged the former officer, who remained emotionless during

the verdict. Chauvin's sentencing is expected to take place in eight weeks, although Cahill did not provide an exact date. Chauvin faces up to 75 years in prison.

"Today's verdict is an important step forward for justice in Minnesota," Gov. Tim Walz said in a statement. "The trial is over, but our work has only begun. ... True justice for George only comes through real, systemic

change to prevent this from happening again."

The 46-year-old Floyd died in police custody on May 25, 2020, when Chauvin pinned him to the ground, pushing his knee onto his neck. Chauvin stayed in place for over nine minutes, during which Floyd repeatedly stated that he could not breathe.

Protesters who gathered outside the Minneapolis courthouse cheered after the verdict

was announced. Philonise Floyd, George's brother, expressed his relief and faith that the jury would return a guilty verdict. However, he also noted this was not the end, citing the death of Daunte Wright — who was killed by an officer 11 miles away from the place George died according to Newsweek — as part of a never-ending cycle and a reason to keep protesting.

"I'm going to put up a fight every day," Philonise said in a news conference, "because I'm not just fighting for George anymore. I'm fighting for everyone around this world."

The Floyd family was contacted by President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris, who gave them their support and a promise to sign to George Floyd Justice in Policing Act.

"We're going to get a lot more done, we're going to do a lot," Biden said. "We're going to stay at it till we get it done."

LACCD Chancellor Francisco Rodriguez released a statement on the verdict, writing it was a "signal of justice" for those awaiting the result.

"While the road to real criminal justice reform remains long, important steps forward were taken for substantive and sustainable change," Francisco wrote. "Our nation's work has only just begun."

According to research by criminal justice Professor Philip Stinson, of the 110 U.S. police officers charged with murder or manslaughter in an on-duty shooting between 2005 and 2020, 42 were convicted — only five of those were for murder.

A database maintained by the Washington Post since 2015 that records every fatal shooting in the U.S. by an on-duty officer found that there are approximately 1,000 every year.

Floyd's death stirred up protests and unrest across the country, including Los Angeles where a curfew remained in place for six days in order to stave off looting. On May 31, National Guard troops were dispatched to defend businesses in Santa Monica and Long Beach that were targeted by looters. Caltrans also closed the west-bound lanes of the 10 Freeway to prevent traffic into Santa Monica. Despite the hysteria in these areas, protests across Southern California remained mostly peaceful.

The three other officers implicated in Floyd's death — Tou Thao, J. Alexander Kueng and Thomas Lane — each face charges of aiding and abetting second-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter. Their trial date is Aug. 23.

Eighteen-year-old Daniella Frazier, who recorded the video of George's death, made a post on Facebook expressing her feelings after the verdict was read.

"I just cried so hard. This last hour my heart was beating so fast, I was so anxious, anxiety bussing through the roof. But to know GUILTY ON ALL 3 CHARGES !!! THANK YOU GOD THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU," Frazier wrote in all caps. "George Floyd we did it!!!"

Cal Grant reform would increase students' access to awards

Legislators' attempt to reform the distribution of state-funded aid is in congruence with a proposed budget increase in higher education spending.

ISAAC DEKTOR
STAFF WRITER

A proposal to reform California's most utilized financial aid service would make an estimated 150,000 low-income community college students eligible for the program.

Cal Grant 2, an amended version of the Cal Grant Reform Act, would change the way the state distributes financial aid as well as remove and alter certain restrictions on the program. Assemblyman Jose Medina of the 61st district proposed AB 1456, which aims to more than double the number of students receiving aid at community colleges and state universities through Cal Grant 2. The reform would reduce the yearly dollar amount received by each individual by roughly \$400, about a

fourth of the total annual sum. Gov. Gavin Newsom's proposed 2021-22 budget includes an increase in spending for the Cal Grant program.

The proposed reforms take the total number of eligible students from 124,260 to 279,264 by striking the eligibility criteria of having a certain high school GPA as well as allowing older students into the program. It would also reduce the annual sum received by students to \$1250; however, students with children may be eligible for larger awards.

"Our goal is to simplify the process and to be more realistic with the needs of today's students, which are very different from students in the past," Medina said in an interview with Edsource.

John McDowell, the Los Angeles College Faculty Guild's

government relations director who served on the California Student Aid Commission a decade ago, explained the significance of the changes to eligibility.

"When you graduate from high school, within a year you can go into Cal Grant," McDowell said. "Once you get beyond that age you're not qualified. We're in a world now where people who are 26 and older — they are in a position where they cannot go to college."

While expanded access to financial aid will support more low-income students in higher education, the reduction of the total amount students receive is a trade-off.

"I do appreciate the legislature evaluating the Cal Grant program to see how we can better serve California community college students," Valley College President Barry Gribbons said. "Many would argue that [it] does not serve community college students as well as it could, so any enhancements to the policies and processes for making awards to California community college students would be great."

The proposed reform would also make middle-class students ineligible for aid through Cal Grant, though they would still qualify for middle-class scholarships, which cover students with household incomes of up to \$184,000.



GRAPHIC ILLUSTRATION | VICKIE GUZMAN
COLLEGE- Cal Grant reform would give more students financial aid.

For the full story, read our online version.

Los Angeles County sees a decline in COVID-19 cases

The county's case rates dwindle as the COVID-19 vaccine rollout continues.

CASSANDRA NAVA
ONLINE EDITOR

Following a surge in COVID-19 cases last fall and winter, Los Angeles County has finally flattened the curve of the pandemic with some of the lowest cases recorded.

Positivity rates, hospitalizations, cases and deaths related to COVID-19 continue to decline, according to data from the county's public health department. As of April 15, 613 new cases, 518 hospitalizations and 23 deaths were recorded. When compared to a surge last fall, on Nov. 23, the county recorded a total of 6,124 new cases, which broke the county's single day record. On Jan. 8, the county reported the highest number of COVID-19 related deaths at 318 and 18,313 new cases, according to the health department's news release.

"We have a moderate contagion in Los Angeles County, therefore it is still necessary for us to continue taking measures to prevent the increase in cases to avoid that our recovery stops," said Barbara Ferrer, director of Public Health in a statement on April 13. "An important tool to reduce contagion are vaccines."

The county's vaccination rollout has reduced cases and allowed residents to fight off the virus. The CDC states that those who receive a vaccine not only help the community by slowing the spread, but they will reap the benefit of not getting seriously ill from the virus — if they do get infected.

According to the Los Angeles Times, as of April 15, 6,041,957 doses have been administered, while 23.4 percent of people in the county are fully vaccinated. These numbers

are expected to increase, since vaccine eligibility has opened to everyone over 16 years old.

In California, the average cases for the week of April 15 are 3,058, while there have been 97 reported deaths. According to graphs from the New York Times, the surge in January saw a seven day average of 40,694 new cases for the week of Jan. 14. Compared to any other state in the country, California has had the most deaths related to COVID-19 at 60,808. Despite the recent drop, California still holds the title of the state with the highest number of cases, according to recent data from Statista.

Due to the lower case rates of COVID-19 in LA, the county is now in the less restrictive orange tier in the four tier system

that determines safety protocols and guidelines. If enough people receive the vaccine, this tier system known as the Blueprint for a Safer Economy will be suspended on June 15 — which is when the state plans to fully reopen.

According to Gov. Gavin Newsom's official website, "common-sense risk reduction measures" such as masks will still be enforced, no matter what tier or guidelines are set in place.

"We can now begin planning for our lives post-pandemic," said Newsom. "We will need to remain vigilant, and continue the practices that got us here — wearing masks and getting vaccinated — but the light at the end of this tunnel has never been brighter."



GRAPHIC ILLUSTRATION | GENE WICKHAM
DECLINE- COVID-19 cases in Los Angeles County are decreasing.

Vigil for Daunte Wright turns into protest

Los Angeles activists hosted a candlelight vigil for Daunte Wright, who was killed by a police officer, in the heart of Hollywood.

SOLOMON SMITH
POLITICAL NEWS EDITOR

Hollywood, CA — On the corner of Sunset and Vine, hundreds of mourners gathered Thursday at 8:30 p.m. to mourn for another black male who had fallen victim to police violence.

"They're calling it an accidental discharge, but it should never have happened," said Roxanne, the organizer of the vigil who did not want to give her last name.

Roxanne is a Los Angeles native and, like many in the audience, reticent about providing her name for fear that the police would "tag" her for later harassment. The LAPD were highly visible, lined up on majors street in squads, holding riot gear.

"It's a public space and you have to keep in mind we're practicing our constitutional rights. We are within our constitutional rights to assemble. So, it doesn't seem necessary to have a police presence at a vigil especially, when we have a community in mourning."

- Roxanne

The vigil itself was somber. Candles and flowers were placed at the fountain in front of the Chase building and the event opened with a song accompanied by the guitar and the recitation of the names of others who had been killed this year by police. Many in the crowd were angry at the death of Daunte Wright and wore air fresheners around their wrists in protest. Wright had been stopped under the pretense of an obstructing object hanging from his rear-view mirror; the object was an air freshener.

"This is why we don't need police on our streets," said a young woman who wished to remain anonymous.

She, like many others, heard about the event through Instagram. Social media has been one of the main ways protests are organized not only because of the reach they have but the anonymity they provide. Police recorded crowd members at the vigil who were mostly peaceful, singing and listening to speakers.

At the closing, Roxanne advocated calm and suggested attendees go home in pairs for safety. She also asked them to go home and not to march to avoid problems with the police. Even though she made the effort to avoid conflict, it does not mean that she allies herself with police. She made it clear that she does not think that police should "exist" and that they are "not needed" in the community. After a year abroad in Sweden, her views changed on capitalism and community activity.

"It's a public space and you have to keep in mind we're practicing our constitutional rights. We are within our constitutional rights to assemble," said Roxanne. "So, it doesn't seem necessary to have a police presence at a vigil especially, when we have a community in mourning."

Although Roxanne advocated peace there were some problems with unassociated members in the crowd. Several fights broke out and at one point an unidentified white male, accompanied by an Asian woman began to harass the crowd. Some of the protesters broke off and began to march in what seemed like retaliation to the harassment. Police mobilized and began to march alongside them down Vine Street toward Selma, with the harassing couple in the lead.

Wright was killed by a police officer who claimed to have mistakenly drawn her pistol instead of her taser and shot him during a traffic stop. The officer made her first appearance in court on Thursday as vigils, and protests, have been held across the country.



PHOTOS BY SOLOMON O. SMITH | VALLEY STAR
SINGING- The vigil ended with a guitar version of the song "Lean on Me" by Bill Withers. Papers were handed out with the lyrics so crowd members could sing along. Los Angeles, Calif., April 15, 2021.



LEFT- A young woman lights a candle for Daunte Demetrius Wright, a 20-year-old Black man who was shot by police during a traffic stop. Kimberly Ann Potter, one of the arresting officers, shot Wright in the chest at point blank range when she mistakenly pulled her service pistol instead of her taser. Potter is currently being charged with second-degree manslaughter and held at the Hennepin County Jail in Brooklyn Center, Minnesota. Los Angeles, Calif., April 15, 2021.

Vaccine mandate for community college not being lobbied

Despite some faculty support, no mandate is currently being considered.

ISAAC DEKTOR
STAFF WRITER

While California reorganizes resources and infrastructure to reopen community colleges, mandatory vaccines remain an elephant in the room.

The reopening of campuses is a statewide effort not lacking in solutions and legal cover. Many bills have been proposed ranging from student assistance to assurances that faculty not be held responsible for COVID-19 outbreaks on campus. When it comes to vaccines, however, the legal responsibility of instituting a mandate is being pushed onto the faculty.

Ruby Christian-Brougham, chapter president of the Los Angeles College Faculty Guild, explained legislators' hesitation in drafting a vaccination mandate.

"They won't take up the bill to get students vaccinated, or to get the faculty vaccinated," Christian-Brougham said. "And with the faculty - they've tried to push it back onto the union and we're not willing to take that liability piece. It's not fair, it's not equitable, we shouldn't be the ones making that decision."

Among the bills that have been taken up by legislators are those that provide students with financial assistance and colleges with legal cover. Assembly Bill 1152 is a

bill authored by Assemblywoman Blanca Rubio of California's 48th district, minimizing liability for colleges that experience COVID-19 outbreaks upon reopening if it is passed.

"The number one priority to us is getting back into our classes and making it safe for our faculty, our staff and our students."

- John McDowell

"They're trying to make sure that we won't be held legally responsible for any COVID situation that occurs from us, from coming back to school," Christian-Brougham said. "Now that bill they've taken up, but they won't take up the bill to get students vaccinated, or to get the faculty vaccinated."

John McDowell, the faculty guild's government relations director, has heard that AB 1152 will not pass into law, claiming that the bill is already dead.

He explained that the faculty guild and other related associations overall strategy is to expedite reopening. "The number one priority to us is getting back into our class-

es, and making it safe for our faculty, our staff and our students," McDowell said. "That's been the main focus of the legislature."

The faculty guild works with the Faculty Association of California Community Colleges and the California Federation of Teachers to lobby for legislation. According to McDowell, the tripartite interests are currently more aligned than in years past.

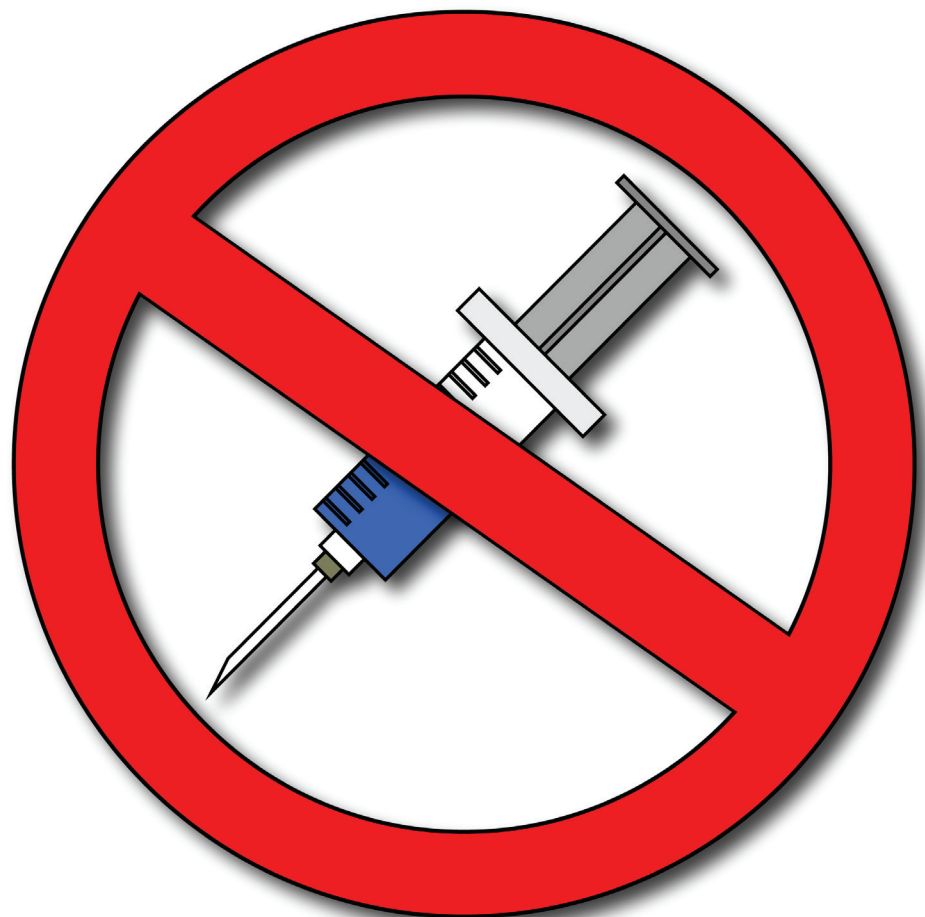
Some faculty are dissatisfied with legislators' current reopening proposals and overall strategy. Sen. Ron Mossler explained his perspective in the latest Academic Senate meeting.

"What I'd also like our Academic Senate and our union to do is to lobby Sacramento to require vaccinations for adults who attend community colleges," Mossler said.

According to Academic Senate President Chauncey Maddren, vaccination mandates would have to come from legislators as opposed to individual colleges or school districts. While some see a vaccination mandate as a necessity to safely reopen campuses, others worry that it may deter some students when deciding whether to attend college.

"Rather than a mandate, we could do better with a program of promotion, education and availability," Maddren said.

As of April 14, 38 percent of Californians have received at least one dose of a coronavirus vaccine, according to the Los Angeles Times.



GRAPHIC ILLUSTRATION | VICKIE GUZMAN

NO SHOT- Community college faculty and students will not be required to receive a COVID vaccine.

Presidential Candidates



SCREENSHOT | GENE WICKHAM

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE - Vardan Tonakanyan is running for president of the Associated Student Union for the 2021 - 2022 school year. He is a political science and philosophy major who plans to become an attorney.



SCREENSHOT | GENE WICKHAM

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE - Sandra Sanchez, a political science major, is running for president of the Associated Student Union for the 2021 - 2022 school year. She plans a career in political science and hopes to work with Congress someday.

ASU candidates empty campus campaign

Associated Student Union contenders stump to a digital audience as the governing student body adjusts to on-line voting and engagement.

ANGELA THOMPSON
CASSANDRA NAVA
MATTHEW ROYER
STAFF WRITERS

Valley hosted their annual “Student Trustee and Local Election Candidates Forum” via Zoom on Wednesday, April 21. Out of 11 candidates, the seven who attended stated why they should be elected. The public forum was hosted by Commissioner of Political Affairs Luoi Sabha. The seven candidates were given five minutes to share their visions of where they plan to take the college. There are three open ASU positions: vice president, parliamentarian and commissioner of fine arts. Following the candidates speeches, students were able to ask questions. Sabha started proceedings for the official ASU candidates to give their speeches on why the student body should elect them. The forum began with those who caucused for president. First-year political science major Sandra Sanchez spoke first and laid out her goals if elected to the position. “Getting involved with what students really need and want is

what the [ASU] should be doing,” said ASU presidential candidate Sanchez. “Running for student government will help students’ voices be heard and help them get what they want.” Sanchez currently serves as a student ambassador on Valley’s campus and worked in the community amassing more than 300 hours in volunteer work at Kaiser Permanente. Presidential candidate and Promise Program student Vardan Tonakanyan presented a slideshow of his plans if elected. In his presentation, he mistakenly identified himself as a candidate for commissioner of political affairs but later clarified his position. His plan is to focus on engaging with students to prevent low rates of attendance by finding new “financial help and job opportunities.” He described why he should be president, stating that he has previous “knowledge in communities, educational awareness” and his desire to aid students to “succeed” in their “dreams.” “I love being active and a part of a community,” said Tonakanyan. “Because I believe the group works together to make the world a better place.” Candidates for the commissioner of publicity and social media shared why they are running for the position. Emily Gutierrez, who is majoring in elementary teaching education, is the incumbent commissioner. According to Gutierrez, her consistent Instagram posts

have seen an increase of followers by 114 percent, which is equal to about 30 new followers a month. Shoshana “Shani” Cassell, the current ASU vice president and business administration major, is also running for the position of commissioner of publicity and social media. Cassell stated that in order to keep students informed she would update the school’s social media accounts weekly. Out of 11 positions total, four candidates did not attend: Giovanni Divaia, who is running for treasurer; Commissioner of Campus Environmental Affairs candidate Joseph Cassell; Commissioner of Ethnic and Cultural Affairs candidate Lauren Lucas; and Commissioner of Health and Wellness candidate Eiran Shalom. Voting for ASU officers and commissioners starts on April 26 through April 30. Students will receive an email with instructions on how to vote through the SIS portal. There will be a Zoom meeting revealing the election results on May 7 at 1 p.m. The ASU page on Valley’s website will update the ‘ASU Election’ tile to display the results.

Jack Kelly contributed to this story.

Executive Office Candidates



ETHAN SHALOM, running for commissioner of student life. Friday, April 16, 2021 (Photo by Solomon O. Smith/ The Valley Star)



EYAL SHALOM is running for commissioner of ethnic and cultural activity. Friday, April 16, 2021 (Photo by Solomon O. Smith/ The Valley Star)



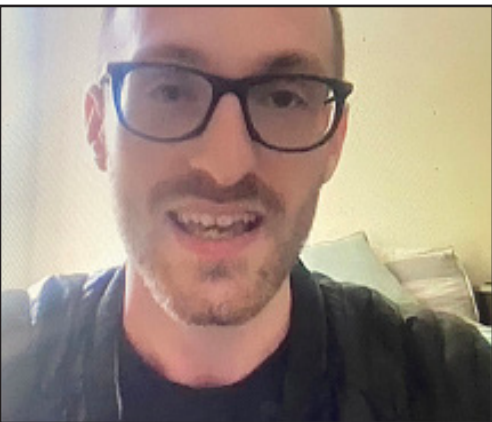
ELIRAN SHALOM is running for commissioner of Health & Wellness. Friday, April 16, 2021 (Photo by Solomon O. Smith/ The Valley Star)



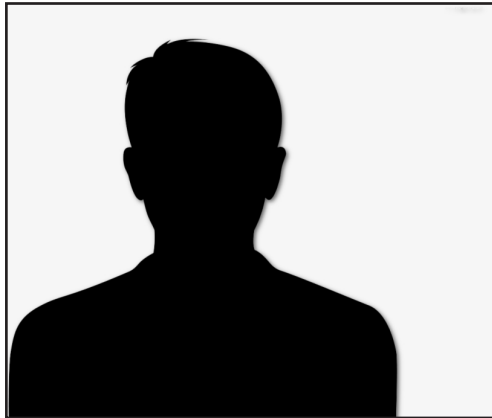
EMILY GUTIERREZ is running for commissioner of publication. Friday, April 16, 2021 (Photo by Solomon O. Smith/ The Valley Star)



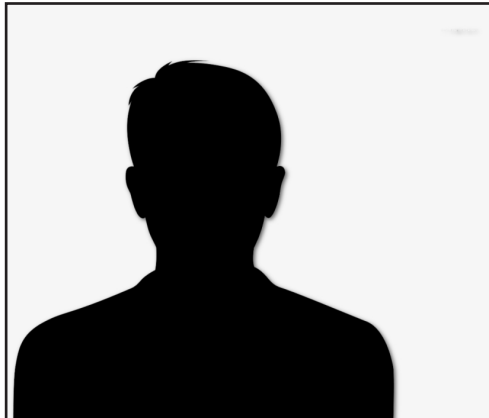
SHOSHANA CASSELL is running for commissioner of publicity. Friday, April 16, 2021 (Photo by Solomon O. Smith/ The Valley Star)



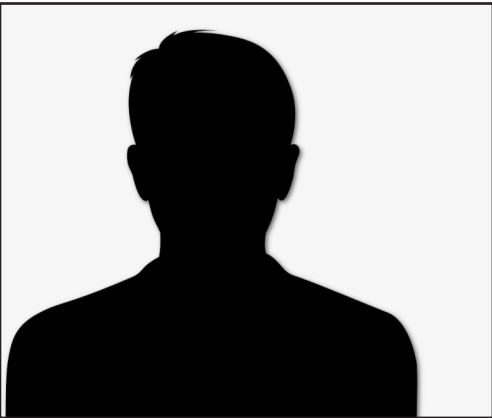
TYLER McDAID is running for commissioner of political affairs. Wednesday, April 21, 2021 (Photo by Gene Wickham/ The Valley Star)



LAUREN LUCAS is running for commissioner of ethnic and cultural activities. - Valley Star reached out to this candidate for a photo but received no reply.



JOSEPH CASSELL is running for commissioner of campus environment. - Valley Star reached out to this candidate for a photo but received no reply.



JOHN-MICHAEL ELLIS is running for commissioner of political affairs. - Valley Star reached out to this candidate for a photo but received no reply.

VOTE THROUGH STUDENT PORTAL MONDAY APRIL 26 TO FRIDAY APRIL 30.

Valley College ranked fifth best community college in California

The college's highly regarded curriculum and close proximity to Hollywood landed Valley in the top five community colleges in the state.

ISAAC DEKTOR
STAFF WRITER

Valley College's exceptional curriculum, faculty and alumni positions the school as the fifth best ranked community college in California and 26th in the country.

The rankings were created by Academic Influence, a notable team of academics and data scientists that generate objective lists of the top institutions providing higher education. Using Wikipedia and CrossRef, Academic Influence determines each school's Concentrated Influence based on the number of references of those affiliated with the college.

There were 839 community colleges in the U.S. that met the requirements to be considered for the list. The conditions for each college included being fully accredited, having at least 1,000 students enrolled and primarily providing associate degree programs.

Valley's President Barry Gribbons is happy to see the hard work of faculty and administrators being recognized.

"We've had an exceptional faculty and administrators and classified staffers for decades.

Everyone is committed to providing life changing educational experiences for students," Gribbons said. "That dedication, you know, it's sometimes hard to see with folks that work behind the scenes, but nonetheless critical."

Valley's high ranking is partially due to its nationally ranked curriculum. The college's computer science program is ranked No. 375 and its communications program is No. 425.

Valley's exceptional curriculum and faculty attributed to the success in the recent rankings, as featured in a Forbes article. The school's proximity to production in Los Angeles draws in individuals pursuing careers in film, giving Valley an edge within Academic Influence's criteria.

Valley has a number of successful actors as alumni including, but not limited to, Bryan Cranston, Briana Evigan, Ed Begley Jr. and Sean Astin.

Known for extensive film and television credits, Cranston's iconic portrayal of villain protagonist Walter White in AMC's "Breaking Bad" is his most renowned role. Viewers of the show will remember the ever-frightening "I am the one who knocks" monologue.

Evigan's double threat — acting and dancing — is on display in the 2008 film "Step Up 2: The

Streets." She stars as the character Andie, with her acting being only rivaled by her dancing.

Having starred in multiple iconic films, such as "The Goonies," "Toy Soldiers" and "Rudy," Astin's filmography is a force to be reckoned with. He has appeared in the second season of "Stranger Things," and perhaps most notably, in the Lord of the Rings trilogy as Samwise Gamgee.

Environmentalism Begley Jr. has appeared in Tim Burton produced "Batman Forever," Christopher Guest mockumentaries and unforgettably yelled "are you high?" at Seth Rogen during a family dinner gone wrong in the outrageous 2008 comedy "Pineapple Express." Begley also advocates for entrepreneurial endeavors to create green energy products.

While Gribbons is proud of Valley's recognition in the rankings, he is not content by lists and ratings, emphasizing the importance of continuing to pursue curricular development.

"The rankings of the college are great, you know, to see them when they come out, but my focus remains on access equity and success and making sure that we're doing everything possible for our communities," Gribbons said.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION | GENE WICKHAM

RANK- Valley College was ranked the fifth best community college in California by Forbes.

Pacific and ArcLight theaters board up their doors for good

After 94 years of operation, Pacific and ArcLight theaters are bidding farewell to moviegoers a year following their initial closure due to the pandemic.



VALLEY STAR | JEREMY RUIZ

THEATERS- The Cinerama Dome in Hollywood is seen here boarded up and closed to the public, following the announcement of the closure of every ArcLight Cinemas and Pacific Theatres.

ANTHONY LOPEZ
STAFF WRITER

The COVID-19 pandemic has not only impacted lives, it has also caused many hardships to businesses such as movie theaters.

According to the Los Angeles Business Journal, as of April

5, theaters are allowed to seat 50 percent of their occupancy or 200 people, whichever is fewer.

However, ArcLight Cinemas and Pacific Theatres did not take advantage of the reopening allowances and therefore have remained closed for more than a year. "After shutting our doors

more than a year ago, today we must share the difficult and sad news that Pacific will not be reopening its ArcLight Cinemas and Pacific Theatres locations," the company wrote in a statement yesterday. "This was not the outcome anyone wanted, but despite a huge effort that exhausted all potential options, the company does

not have a viable way forward."

A recent report from IndieWire stated that Pacific Theaters Exhibition had not paid an estimated \$181,900 in rent for March 2021 for its Culver City ArcLight location and could be in danger of owing \$2.2 million for a full year.

This closure means that some of the most popular movie theaters within the film industry will be closed, including the iconic Cinerama Dome in Hollywood. The theater has hosted movie premieres and has appeared in everything from "Melrose Place" to Tarantino's 2019 film "Once Upon a Time in Hollywood."

According to an article by the Hollywood Reporter, The Cinerama Dome in Hollywood was constructed in 1963 by Pacific Theatres' parent company the Decurion Corp., and designed by Welton Becket & Associates — who was also the architect of the Beverly Wilshire and Beverly Hilton hotels. The unique structure was built to house what was then a new widescreen Cinerama system which employed a 70mm single-projector process of displaying images on a huge curved screen (rather than the original Cinerama system that used three synchronized projectors). The Dome opened on Nov. 7, 1963, with the world premiere of Stanley Kramer's "It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World."

Pacific Theaters and ArcLight had six locations each in

the Los Angeles area. ArcLight also operated theaters in Boston, Chicago, San Diego and other cities throughout the country. The 18 Pacific Theatres screens at the Glendale Americana and 14 at the Grove in the Fairfax District of Los Angeles are both major landmarks. Other locations for the two brands were in Northridge, Sherman Oaks, Lakewood and Chatsworth.

"The Arclight Hollywood was my most favorite theatre in the world to see movies. ... I saw my first movie in LA there when I moved here in 2009 and the last movie before the pandemic there. Truly a bummer."

- Ben Schwartz

Although Pacific and ArcLight theaters are saying goodbye to moviegoers, AMC and Cinemark theaters are not in the

clear just yet. MarketWatch stated that ever since theaters have started to reopen with limited capacity in some states, they still remain closed in many major cities such as Los Angeles and New York City. Movies that were originally scheduled for release in the year 2020 have been pushed back to 2021. Three percent of U.S. movie theater companies posted losses of 75 percent or more in the second quarter due to coronavirus-related closures.

"If the status quo continues, 69 percent of small- and mid-sized movie-theater companies will be forced to file for bankruptcy or to close permanently, and 66 percent of theater jobs will be lost," the group said.

Social media went into a frenzy after the announcement by Pacific and ArcLight theaters was made. Actors and filmmakers like Gina Prince-Bythewood, Barry Jenkins, Rian Johnson and Elijah Wood headed to Twitter to use their platforms to express their feelings in regards to the closure of these iconic and memorable theaters.

"The Arclight Hollywood was my most favorite theatre in the world to see movies," said actor Ben Schwartz on Twitter. "My home court of cinema in LA. I saw my first movie in LA there when I moved here in 2009 and the last movie before the pandemic there. Truly a bummer."

Young people turn to OnlyFans in a fragile economy

Gen Zers and Millennials have started doing sex work on OnlyFans out of financial necessity and a genuine appreciation for the jobs' benefits.

SOREN BLOMQUIST
EGGERLING
STAFF WRITER

[In order to protect them from potential harassment, the women in this article will be referred to by their first names only.]

For most people, the COVID-19 pandemic has left many in tenuous financial straits. Some have responded to this by venturing into sex work on OnlyFans, an online platform that has skyrocketed in popularity as the pandemic has deprived people of income and intimacy.

Erika, who moved to Los Angeles to pursue an acting career after graduating with honors from a four-year university, had recently been delivering food for income. Due to pandemic-related safety concerns, she stopped in the middle of last summer. Still, she has managed to stay afloat financially and believes she has grown as a person, in large part due to her current job on OnlyFans.

"I needed something where I could work on my own schedule, but the pay would be consistent so that I never ran into a situation where I couldn't feed myself," Erika ruminated. "I really didn't have the lux-

ury of having reservations."

Starting in 2016 by a British entrepreneur with a background in sex-based websites, OnlyFans has become the premier online platform for sex workers, especially during the pandemic. According to OnlyFans Head of Marketing Steve Pym in a New York Magazine Intelligence article, it saw a 40 percent increase in the number of content creators in March 2020 alone.

Rachel, who primarily works in the cannabis industry, was among those new content creators, joining OnlyFans after she was laid off from a job at a dispensary and the money from her last pay stub and stimulus checks started to deplete.

"I always imagined myself doing OnlyFans in a way where it would be different from everyone else," Rachel clarified, explaining that she saw the platform as a source of "seed money," or a way to supplement her primary income.

Rachel also differs from the stereotypical OnlyFans creator in that her content is neither nude nor topless. It is in many ways an extension of her aspirations to become a professional model, a goal she is currently working towards. Recently, Rachel's OnlyFans has taken a backseat, es-

pecially after she got a new office job back in the field of cannabis.

She is not ruling out a return to the platform in the future, but her earnings were inconsistent and not enough to support herself on. More importantly, she finds the time commitment to be daunting.

"The girls that are doing it as a main hustle are spending countless hours on their phone," she asserted. "It is a full-time job plus more."

Andie, an undergraduate studying to become a physician's assistant, also started an OnlyFans during the pandemic, but unlike Rachel, it has morphed into her primary source of income. After just a couple months, she quit her serving job to focus on creating content for the website, eventually making more than she was at the restaurant. She is succeeding, although her cash flow can be difficult to peg from month to month.

"That's a big downside, that you never know what's going to happen," she explained. "My followers never go down lower than a certain number and I always make around the same range of money, give or take \$500 or so."

Still, Andie is immensely grateful for the freedom her OnlyFans work has given her, both personally and professionally. At

the end of the day though, OnlyFans is still a job for her, one that requires both time and a willingness to display her face and body, even if she is feeling insecure.

"I know a lot of people will make it seem [casual], but for me it's a long time and takes a lot of work."

Like Andie, Erika supports herself entirely off of OnlyFans. Through the rave scene and other sources, the two amassed a social media following that proved instrumental in their growth as sex workers on OnlyFans. Both wholeheartedly believe in the concept of sex work, a major factor in their decision to join the platform.

"I don't believe there is anything wrong with sex work. I don't think there is anything to be ashamed about," said Erika.

A self-diagnosed person with autism, Erika views her work as a way to empower and inspire. She does not want to run for office, be a teacher or adopt kids, traditional life paths she noted might be complicated by the stigma surrounding sex work. Crucially, any slight reservations she may have had have been quelled by a consistent paycheck.

For the full story, read our online version.

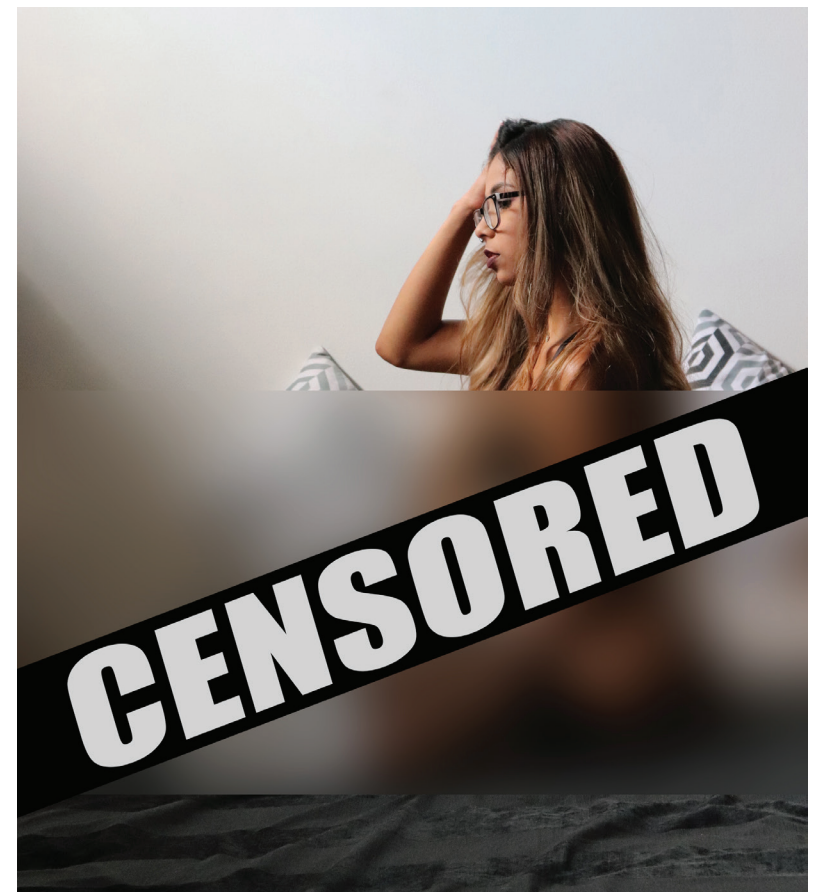


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION | VICKIE GUZMAN

SEX WORK- More and more people have turned to OnlyFans during the pandemic as a way to supplement income.

Valley College outfielder shows his work ethic on the field and on YouTube

Center/Right Fielder Stephen Knez shows that being a social influencer and Valley College baseball player goes hand in hand.



Valley Star | Stephen Castaneda

BASEBALL- Valley College Monarchs Center/Right Fielder Stephen Knez has amassed a following of 62.3K subscribers on his self-titled YouTube channel. Tuesday, April 14, 2021. Los Angeles, Calif.

BENJAMIN ROYER
STAFF WRITER

Valley College’s baseball team has not been able to hit the field for a game since last season, but outfielder Stephen Knez keeps his eye on the ball and the views online.

After leaving Arkansas Tech University, Stephen Knez turned to Valley for his baseball opportunities. Documenting his career and aspirations through YouTube shows his life to where he is now, step by step. His self-titled YouTube channel is dedicated to showing his journey through baseball.

“I came up with the generation of when YouTube started to get super popular. So, I would always watch fitness YouTubers like Steve Cook and others,” Knez said. “I was like, I want to be a fitness influencer one day. Why couldn’t I do it? Might as well start with documenting my journey even if it was not where I wanted it to be.”

Knez puts out videos week-to-week focusing on his baseball talent, his friends and other baseball-related content. Even Knez cannot imagine where this journey has taken him.

“If I were to see myself and see where I took it to the future, I probably would not believe myself,” Knez said. “I would be like dang dude, I was just put-

ting out videos to have fun, for the hopes of it becoming something.”

On his YouTube channel, there is a series which he calls “Day In The Life.” This focuses on himself and other baseball players vlogging as they compare and contrast their lives in baseball.

“I have created this nice little community on my social media where people will comment, Valley Boys for life!”
- Stephen Knez

“I developed this format based on one of my buddies, ‘Adventure Athlete’ where we could do a collab where we could show each other’s points of view. We could compare and contrast the views,” Knez said. “Some of them have solid views. One of the videos [is] with my buddy Hayden Cantrelle, who plays with the [Milwaukee] Brewers now. That video has 200,000 views or something like that. So I was like, why don’t we keep on doing this?”

These videos have kept his 62.2 thousand subscribers



Valley Star | Stephen Castaneda

VIDEO- Valley College Monarchs Center/Right Fielder Stephen Knez vlogs his batting practice. Knez has amassed a following of 62.3K subscribers on his self-titled YouTube channel. Tuesday April 14, 2021. Los Angeles, Calif.

involved throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Knez is working hard to maintain his goals and work ethic, whether a season is to come or not.

“My friend and I, Thomas Keller, we started going to the field every day,” Knez said. “We were going to different random fields across the San Fernando Valley. Just making sure that we got on. Making sure that we got our long toss in, our ground balls in. I just took it into my own hands.”

Knez has a merchandise

brand called Valley Boys that he says encompasses his “morals and values.” Knez is proud of what it has become.

“I have created this nice little community on my social media where people will comment, Valley Boys for life!” Knez said. “It really pumps people up.”

Knez looks to transfer from Valley to continue his baseball career and reach back into a four-year collegiate program. He looks to the bright side of what could come in the future.

“There is a lot of strategies

and ways that I have been trying to go about it. I have been trying to give myself the best opportunity to get recruited in many different avenues,” Knez said. “I am lucky compared to other JUCO guys. We got our season canceled. I am lucky that I have a social media following. I can ask my followers, ‘Hey please go retweet this’ and the future college that I could play for could be like, ‘Sweet, I like this guy, let’s go hit him up.’”

SPORTS ANALYSIS

European Super League gloriously crashes within 48 hours of existence

World Football’s worst attempted coup took a beating from fans and was knocked out in rapid fashion.

BENJAMIN ROYER
STAFF WRITER

On top of the European Super League’s grave lies a tombstone. The Tombstone says, “Rest in Infamy.”

Twelve European football teams including Liverpool and Real Madrid joined together to create a Super League to play “as soon as practicable.” The boards of the clubs had been working through the pandemic to find a profitable path for the league proposal. The move brought backlash from supporters of the clubs involved to celebrities across Earth.

“Star Wars: A New Hope” taught us a valuable lesson. The underdogs take down the Evil Empire in satisfying fashion.

This time, the fans sent a big message to the richest of owners in world soccer.

The European Super League was not built to thrive from the get-go. Minutes after its announcement, the Union of European Football Associations threatened sanctions on the teams involved. They sent a memo discussing the removal from European competitions that some clubs were already involved within.

“Gentlemen, you made a huge mistake,” UEFA President Aleksander Ceferin said in a speech to European soccer leaders at the UEFA annual meeting acquired by the Associated Press. “Some will say it is greed, others [will say] disdain arrogance, flippancy or complete ignorance of England’s football

culture. It does not matter.”

Domestic leagues would have hurt if the Super League would have happened, especially those within England’s football culture. Clubs within these leagues rely on television deals and sponsors to stay afloat. If the large teams involved within the Super League left, it would leave the rest of the clubs involved in a dire situation.

American owners in the Super League such as Manchester United’s Glazer Family and Arsenal’s Stan Kroenke own both Premier League and NFL football teams. They were two of the ownership groups spearheading the effort. They immediately faced backlash from supporters of both their clubs.

Their attempt to make the

Super League happen was to try and replicate the money-making machine which is a sports franchise in America. The guarantee of profit instead of risking money each season domestically was the hope.

This is not the checks and balances system that has been placed in English football for centuries.

“Football is a working-class game where anyone can beat anyone on their day and it’s that that makes it incredible, it’s that that’s made it a global force,” said English late-night host James Corden on his “Late Late Show”. “I know that sport is nothing without the fans. We need football to be for everyone. We need football to be fair and we need competitions based on merit.”

Corden speaks the truth of what many football fans have been thinking, but unable to say on a national stage. Fairness in football needs to occur.

After all the backlash from fans alike, clubs moved to leave the Super League. Leaving their goal of world football domination, dead in the water.

Clubs should still be punished for their attempt to change the game in such drastic ways. Clubs could see point deductions and transfer embargoes placed upon them in the future.

Sports are lucky to see the Super League not occur and football fans can take a huge sigh of relief that the attempt came up short. The Super League will live in football history forever.



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GOT A LETTER TO THE EDITOR?

Letters to the editor can be submitted online at www.thevalleystarnews.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.



Photos by Solomon O. Smith | Valley Star

ORGANIZER - Tory Johnson, the founder of the Huntington Beach Black Lives Matter group, speaks to reporters about the troubled history of Huntington Beach. He organized the anti-racism rally, which began at the Huntington Beach Pier, in response to recent rises in Klu Klux Klan and white supremacist flyers and activity in the area. Sunday, April 11, 2021.

Anti-racist march has low supremacist turnout

ARRESTED - One of the few White Lives Matter protesters to show, left, is arrested by the Huntington Beach Police Department. There were few protesters claiming a direct link to the White Lives March, but many individuals with racist propaganda engaged anti-supremacist protesters. Sunday, April 11, 2021.



TATTOO - This man's tattoo is an exact replication of the German "totenkopf" or death's head. This particular skull tattoo was used by German SS and Waffen units who guarded concentration camps and is used across the country on the banners of many white nationalist and skin head organizations.



Heated resistance from BLM

SOLOMON O. SMITH
POLITICAL NEWS EDITOR

Hundreds of counter protesters showed up at the Huntington Beach Pier April 11 at 11 a.m. to protest a White Lives Matter rally.

The rally was announced via social media hoping to have their own protest in response to the number of Black Lives Matters protests that had been held in the area.

Over the next two hours, the BLM crowd size grew along with its appetite for aggression. Speakers were welcomed to an open podium, but some began confronting individuals identified by members of the crowd as racists, chanting "Nazi" and "fascist" as they followed them.

For more on this story, visit
[thevalleystarnews.com](https://www.thevalleystarnews.com)



HEATED ARGUMENT - A young Asian protester, left, explains the purpose of the rally to a local, right. The man in the red hat began chanting "dog lives matter" claiming that protesters should be more concerned about the deaths of local pets. Sunday, April 11, 2021.



CONFRONTATION - Two women enter a heated debate about black on black crime. The woman in the light blue sweater, left, lectured the protester, right, on the merits of former secretary of housing and urban development, Ben Carson, as a role model for "good" African Americans. Sunday, April 11, 2021.



KKK LEADER - The man left flashes the skin head tattoo "ACAB" meaning "all cops are bastards" while the older man on the right, William Quigg, flashes the cross of the Klu Klux Klan. Quigg is ranking official in the California KKK.