



VALLEY LIFE: PITCHING
VALLEY'S PITCHING COACH USES TECHNOLOGY TO IMPROVE TEAM PERFORMANCE



OPINION: GRACE PERIOD
THE LACCD VACCINE AND TESTING MANDATE IS TOO LITTLE TOO LATE

Rain falls over drought-stricken state



VALLEY STAR | JEREMY RUIZ

RAINFALL- Students at Valley College enjoyed rain for the first time since the campus returned to in-person instruction. On Oct. 19, Gov. Gavin Newsom expanded a statewide drought emergency, urging Californians to “redouble water conservation efforts.” In Northern California this past weekend, two storms came together, bringing a bomb cyclone to the area, washing away burn scars from recent fires. The system moved down towards Los Angeles, bringing a storm that set rainfall records in Southern California, with some cities reaching up to six inches of rain according to the National Weather Service. At Los Angeles International Airport, 0.39 inches were recorded, breaking a record for the city previously held by 0.19 inches in 1951. While some hoped the rain would help bridge gaps with upcoming fire warnings, according to the LA Times, officials warned that a forthcoming Santa Ana Winds event “could erase any moisture gains from the storms.”

Bulldozed bungalows

BENJAMIN ROYER
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

Three stories tall with a sleek design, Valley College will have a new building that catches the driver’s eye as they pass by. Initiatives campus and district-wide allow Valley to be considered a “green” campus with the goal of helping the environment as a whole. This plan is implemented within the “Academic Complex 1,” which was introduced in its full glory at the District Citizens Oversight Committee Meeting on Oct. 15. Encompassing 80,000 gross square footage, the structure is set to replace the quad that held campus bungalows and will arrive as soon as 2025; with construction set to begin in the second quarter of 2023. At the cost of \$90.5 million, Valley received the funds to start construction via taxpayer bond money. “The district has a commitment to sustainability and it is looking into different ways that we can promote sustainable practices,” said Valley President Barry Gribbons. “For ‘Academic Complex 1,’ no fossil fuels will be used in the building. The energy performance will exceed title 24 by 10 percent, LED lighting throughout, LEED certified, photovoltaic ready and then the stormwater measures. Visible at the intersection of Burbank and Ethel avenue on Valley’s campus, the project will push many of Valley’s academic departments to the three-story highrise. Business, Psychology, Sociology, Math and more will pack up and move into the innovative building in four years, switching where courses will be taught in the upcoming semesters. Thirty-six classes and 90 faculty offices will be built according to the current floorplan which could allow for more classes, students and faculty. As a part of the presentation introduced at the meeting on Oct. 15, a point was made for a stormwater capture area to be placed within Valley’s campus. The stormwater capture system is something that Valley has been in the works on for a few years and is outlined in upcoming projects. “Campus road north and south on Coldwater Canyon will include the ability to capture stormwater so it doesn’t run off into the sewer system,” said Gribbons. In developments spanning from 2022 through 2027, installations for on-campus stormwater collection systems are set to be built and improved on as the years pass. For example, “Academic Structure 1” will host underground stormwater tanks used to collect water that is used for drainage in dry spells. California and states similar have developed bills to help fund these systems to protect “drought-prone” regions. “There are some unique features that relate to that [the sustainability],” said Gribbons. “It’ll include natural atrium ventilation, forest certified hardware stair, polished concrete floors, cool exterior paving, drought tolerant landscaping, high performance rain screen, cool roof, high performance glazing and horizontal and vertical sun fins.”



VALLEY STAR | AVA ROSATE

DEAN- Carmen Dominguez steps into her new role as dean of academic affairs, arts and media design this week and brings with her years of teaching, administrative and performance experience.

Dominguez named new Dean

Dean of Academic Affairs Carmen Dominguez started on Oct. 25.

MATTHEW ROYER
POLITICAL NEWS EDITOR

It should be no surprise that Carmen Dominguez is coming out of retirement. In her first four hours as new dean at Valley College on Monday, the self-described Disney fanatic seemed to conduct as much energy as Captain Marvel. Last serving as Cypress College’s vice president of instruction in 2020, Dominguez spent most of her life teaching. Graduating from San Diego State University with her bachelor’s degree and master’s degree in music, the new Monarch started her education at the community-college level as a dual-enrollment student. She served as dean at College of the Canyons where she worked alongside President Barry Gribbons, who held the position of deputy chancellor. At Valley, Dominguez hopes to share the ideas she gained through her experiences with faculty and the student body. “I retired young and realized I was very interested in coming back and helping,” said Dominguez. “When I saw this position open, I thought ‘I

know how to do that. I did it at COC. I can help.’ I immediately wanted to offer my services.” The new dean’s arrival comes during the construction of the Valley Academic & Cultural Center, which officials say will “bring the Media Arts Department and the Theater Arts Department into a single complex—for a more collaborative learning environment.” Dominguez said she was excited to see the new developments happening on campus. “There’s this vibrancy. You can feel that the campus is getting renewed,” said Dominguez. “It’s a great energy to attach yourself to and be a part of. It’s exciting for students too; this campus is going to continue to grow, just like we all should.” Student growth is vital to Dominguez. In her new position titled “Dean of Academic Affairs, Arts and Media Design,” the former music teacher is inspired by the opportunities LACCD and Valley provide their students. After graduating from SDSU, Dominguez received her Doctorate of Musical Arts in Conducting from Johns Hopkins University, becoming a pro-

fessor of music at Saddleback College shortly thereafter. After 16 years of teaching, the arts advocate entered the role of dean for visual and performing arts at COC, overseeing their regional performing arts center and its related programs. Finding connections between music and leadership, Dominguez believes there is importance in building relationships that benefit faculty and the student body. “Music is collaborative,” said Dominguez. “You have to facilitate and gather to work together to create a final beautiful project.” Citing the Guided Pathways program, the framework described by the CCC Chancellor’s Office as “a highly structured approach to student success that provide all students with a set of clear course-taking patterns that promotes better enrollment decisions and prepares students for future success,” Dominguez feels that Valley has laid out a vision for their students that can foster innovation and the next generation of workers in the Valley.

See ‘Dean’ on page 2

Acting Chancellor visits Valley College

Daisy Gonzales listened to student’s experiences.

LUIS FLORES
PHOTOGRAPHER

While touring seven of the 116 community colleges in California, Acting Chancellor Daisy Gonzales visited Valley to hear students’ concerns. Around 40 students attended the on-campus listening tour voicing concerns to Gonzales who holds the title of student and academic senate for the California Community Colleges system (CCC) and is also a member of the board of governors. Valley was one of seven campuses in the CCC system visited by the chancellor. The event began with the introduction of the listening members and proceeded with students taking the stage. “All you have to do is sit down and listen to students,” said Gonzales. “They know what they need to succeed.” The purpose of the event was to better understand the barriers faced by students and learn why enrollment numbers are struggling. Disabilities, mental health and the lack of African American students returning to campus were the main issues brought up during the listening tour. Gonzales voiced her awareness towards homelessness and the

lack of resources for undocumented students as issues faced prior to the event. According to Gonzales, 60 percent of students faced food and housing insecurities and 19 percent were homeless before the pandemic. “We are not disabled, we are unstoppable,” said student William Craig after talking about resources for disabled students. Craig, who takes part in the Abilities Club at Valley, called for more transportation for disabled students as well as extended gym operating hours. “I think that we do need to focus more on our students with disabilities,” said ASU President Sandra Sanchez. “What we need to focus on is what makes students happy, what students really need.” Sanchez hopes the CCC system will ensure DACA students with the financial assistance they need, as well as Umoja Black Scholars and similar underfunded programs. Information gathered from the listening tour will be presented to the CCC in a statewide webinar in January. Gonzales and other listening members will share their takeaways with California lawmakers, informing them of the advocacy the board of governors will be doing over the next year.



VALLEY STAR | JEREMY RUIZ

TOUR- Acting Chancellor Daisy Gonzales (in blue) visited Valley College as a part of a Student Listening Tour.

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Clean transportation: Orange line goes green

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority's G Line is the first bus line to go fully electric.



METRO- Four individuals find refuge from the rain and board the fully electric Orange Metro line heading to North Hollywood on Oct. 25.

ANNETTE LESURE
STAFF WRITER

The San Fernando Valley Metro G Line (Orange) which travels from North Hollywood to Chatsworth now operates 40 electric buses that can run for 150 miles and recharge within 30 minutes.

The Metro agency went green as they added 40 new, zero-emission 60-foot electric buses, retiring all natural-gas buses on the G line, which now has three rapid charging stations on the route. The improvements will provide clean air, less noise and are the beginning of the future for Los Angeles. As the third-largest transit agency in the United States after New York and

Chicago, LA Metro, which receives funding from taxpayer dollars, has "ambitious" plans to go all-electric in LA County by 2030.

"The buses are super quiet and that's really good for the communities that adjoin the eight-mile bus-way," said Dave Sotero, LA Metro communications director. "Equity Focus Communities on the G line are those that may not get the types of improvements that other communities may get, so the electric buses are running through these communities and bringing environmental benefits to [them]."

One environmental health benefit instantly arising from the change on the Orange line is cleaner air. For the residents, better air quality means healthier lungs in an area that continues

to rank "as the most ozone-polluted in the United States," according to a 2021 "State of the Air" report by the American Lung Association.

Will Barrett, the director of clean air advocacy for California's American Lung Association, said that California is a leader in clean air policies but all communities should have access to the benefits of healthy air.

According to Globe News Network, there are currently around 650 electric buses in the United States and demand for zero-emission public transportation is growing faster than production due to government initiatives.

As the largest transportation agency in the United States, LA Metro is the first to initiate such a large environmental sustain-

ability project. Future plans to advance to other parts of the Metro are contingent upon new developments in electric bus technology. Such progress includes battery life, range, reduction of charging times and cost.

"The 2020s will be defined as the decade for climate action," said Mayor Eric Garcetti in a statement, who is a board member on LA Metro. "Now, more than ever, bold and ambitious policies are needed to tackle climate change. Metro's transition to electric buses on the G Line is a perfect example of a bold policy made real. We have proven that these next-generation buses are fully capable of meeting this popular bus line's daily service needs."

The \$80 million project which

included the new electric buses, equipment and improvements, also provides WiFi, air conditioning, and USB charging ports for added commuter convenience.

"Today we are working tirelessly to create a more environmentally sustainable, equitable and resilient public transportation system."

- Stephanie N. Wiggins,
LA Metro CEO

The modernizing of the Los Angeles transit system is a big commitment and long-term investment with plans that include converting the G line to an inner-city light rail line in the SFV in the next 20 years.

"Today we are working tirelessly to create a more environmentally sustainable, equitable and resilient public transportation system for all our customers," said Stephanie N. Wiggins, LA Metro CEO. "Our zero-emission bus goals are an important part of our overall strategy to reduce our agency's carbon footprint and become carbon neutral. We continue as a transit leader in our march towards a more sustainable and resilient transportation system that will benefit our customers, our industry and our planet."

The LA Metro is committed to the American Public Transportation Association Health and Safety Commitment Program to keep riders safe as the city turns the corner on the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Valley Star honored by LA Press Club and College Media Association

Print submissions from the 2020 semester grant Monarchs the top spot among student papers.

MARCOS FRANCO
MANAGING EDITOR

On Oct. 16, The Los Angeles Press Club named The Valley Star the "Best College Newspaper" at its 63rd annual awards honoring Southern California journalism. The Star won first place over dozens of other community colleges and four-year institutions.

Valley Star's independent student publication beat out Santa Monica College's The Corsair, LACC's Collegian, Long

Beach State's Daily Forty-Niner and Pepperdine University's Pepperdine Graphic Media for the top collegiate honor at the 63rd annual Journalism Awards Dinner. The Star also won third place for best college news website, defeating The Collegian and Pepperdine Graphic Media.

"The mix of stories on the first few pages was great, the paper was easy to read, and well-organized, the photos were sharp and the layout was tight," wrote competition judges.

Further, The Star won third place in the College Media Association's Pinnacle Awards for two-year newspapers. For this award, The Star competed against colleges from around the nation.

Solomon O. Smith, former political news editor, and Ava Rosate, current photo editor, were both finalists for photo submissions. Smith was recognized for "Best News Photo" in "Youth Organizers Turn Small Protest into Major March for Justice" and Rosate for "The Show Must Go On...line" in the "Best Feature Photo" category.

The LA Press Club was founded in 1913 to support, promote and defend quality journalism in Southern California according to the organization's website.



AWARD- The Valley Star awarded first place by the LA Press Club.

VALLEY STAR | JEREMY RUIZ

The show goes on; IATSE was strike averted

The two unions were able to reach an agreement before the 12:01 a.m. deadline set for the morning of Oct. 17.

ISAAC DEKTOR
NEWS EDITOR

Hollywood's trade union reached an agreement with major studios and streaming services recently, averting a strike that would have hamstrung an industry in overdrive.

A tentative three year agreement between The International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE) and The Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers (AMPTP) was struck just three days after IATSE announced its ultimatum and deadline for negotiations. If a deal was not made by midnight on Oct. 17, 60,000 workers would strike. The Basic and Videotape Agreements, which still must be ratified by the union's members, includes many victories for IATSE such as increased meal period penalties, ten hour turnaround between work days and living wage for the lowest earners.

"This is a Hollywood ending."

- Matthew D. Loeb,
IATSE President

Mike Miller, vice president and motion picture director for IATSE, said that the new agreement will be a win-win for not only the behind-the-scenes workers that his union represents, but for the studios as well.

"Our members will see significant improvements, but our employers also will benefit," said Miller. "This settlement allows pre-production, production and post-production to continue without interruption. Workers should have improved morale and be more alert. Health and safety standards have been upgraded."

IATSE's ultimatum came in the wake of 36 local unions across the country showing overwhelming support for a strike in a vote that concluded on Oct. 3.

Tensions reached a breaking point between IATSE and AMPTP amid COVID-19 working conditions. According to The New York Times, major studios put production in overdrive to make up for lost time during the pandemic as stay-at-home orders drove up the demand for content. Additionally, a prior contract allowed streaming services with less than 20 million subscribers to slash workers' pay. As streaming giants such as Netflix became increasingly profitable, many within IATSE began to call for new rules regarding the maturing companies. AMPTP is the bargaining face of major studios such as Paramount Pictures, Universal Pictures, Netflix, principle broadcast television and other powerhouses of entertainment.

"This is a Hollywood ending," said Matthew D. Loeb, international president of IATSE for the last 13 years. "Our members stood firm. We are tough and united."

The last widespread strike in Hollywood was the 2007-08 Writ-

er's strike, which lasted roughly 14 weeks and set the modern precedent for bargaining in the entertainment industry. The Writer's Guild voted to end the strike after 100 days and successfully bargained for residuals to be paid to writers when their work is downloaded or displayed on ad-based platforms, according to the Writer's Guild of America West.

Valley College Media Arts department chair Eric Swelstad is a member of the writer's guild who believes that streaming platforms should be accommodating their workers fairly.

"With the plethora of money

that's coming out of the streaming services during the pandemic - it's only fair that when you're making a lot of money you have to pass on that money," said Swelstad.

He observed that a new agreement between IATSE and AMPTP would likely impact Valley students hoping to break into the entertainment industry.

"We pride ourselves in getting students started in their field - going straight from the school to the stage. Most people start as PAS and work their way up from there," said Swelstad. "We'll continue to tell students to expect long hours."

Production assistants are not represented by IATSE and will not receive the new union benefits resulting from the contract.

THE LATEST

The recent accidental killing of cinematographer Halyna Hutchins by actor Alec Baldwin brought about new calls for set safety.

BRIEFS

Students can enroll in a variety of late-start classes

Students now have the chance to enroll in a diverse assortment of late-start classes, including art and accounting, math and marketing, physics and philosophy, among about 200 others still open.

Students can choose classes that start as early as Oct. 25, which last eight weeks, or as late as Nov. 19, which last only three weeks. The majority of courses end Dec. 19, with few exceptions. Certain health, sociology, and ESL (English second language) courses end sooner. Most of the classes are online, but various health, kinesiology, communications and ESL courses are offered in-person as well.

A few health classes have already begun as of Oct. 18, but many other classes are still available for students to enroll in. Many classes have already filled up, and students are encouraged to enroll as soon as possible.

"If you have room in your scheduled classes to add one more class," said Valley College President Gribbons, "this is a terrific opportunity to pick up a class."

Late-start classes offer students opportunities to enroll in courses that may have been packed at the start of the fall, and also gives students who switched their major a chance to catch up.

Edward Veloso, a student just starting college, is choosing to take math and english late-start classes because he "decided to take a break to have time to finish [his] job and make some money." Veloso said that late-start classes will allow him to do everything he wants without falling behind, letting him take some time to focus on work, and then going to school after.

Enrollment in the beginning of this semester was relatively low, so students are encouraged to fill their schedules if they have the time to do so.

EDWARD SEGAL
STAFF WRITER

LACCD issues grace period for vaccine mandate and testing

The district pushed the original Oct. 18 deadline for employees and students to receive a negative COVID-19 test and either submit proof of vaccination or apply for an exemption. The grace period offers a second opportunity for faculty and students who did not submit the required information by the original date set by the district to do so without having to miss work or classes. The new deadline to comply with the mandate is set for Nov. 3 for employees and Nov. 19 for students.

ISAAC DEKTOR
NEWS EDITOR

Dean From page 1

"With Guided Pathways, there is the opportunity to come here, get the training from our faculty and then work in the Valley community," said the community college alumna. "Later on, students can then enter their career choice or get their foot in the door where they couldn't have before. Connecting with that is my goal. I'm excited that students can come here, decide what they want to do and start that exact day. It's fantastic."

Growing up in Southern California, including a period in nearby North Hollywood, Dominguez spent her early days surrounded by the entertainment industry. A self-proclaimed Disney fanatic, Dominguez enjoys Marvel Comics and "The Mandalorian." Before the COVID-19 pandemic, Dominguez was an annual pass holder at Disneyland.

As part of the inspiration for her return to work, Dominguez finds comfort from the different hobbies she partakes in and the creative space she has built for herself at home in Pomona. The artist can be found building light fixtures in her makerspace, working on illustrations, playing her piano or even grilling, a hobby she enjoys with friends while watching football.

A few hours into her new job at Valley, Dominguez provided a message for the community she hopes to assist through her work, "I became dean because I want to help faculty help students."

MATTHEW ROYER
POLITICAL NEWS EDITOR



GRAPHIC ILLUSTRATION | VICKIE GUZMAN

STRIKE- 60,000 members of IATSE threatened to strike if new basic agreement did not meet their terms.

Spin For a Strike: Valley's pitching staff finds new ways to develop their game

Through the lead of pitching coach Josh Goossen-Brown, the Monarchs are using technology to recruit, improve techniques and find success.

BENJAMIN ROYER
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

Pitch velocity used to be the telltale factor on the track to a professional career, but with technology, the path to the majors is also about spin.

Valley College pitching coach Josh Goossen-Brown has stepped in line with the direction baseball is moving changing the way to look at how a baseball moves, using the popular measuring device Rapsodo. The technology tracks the speed, spin, control, command and velocity of the ball as it is released from the pitcher's hand. Now using the same innovation as the major leagues and throughout high-level Division I baseball, the former Valley graduate is hoping to find the formula to success while helping his players improve.

"The biggest thing for me is knowing how my pitches move, it [Rapsodo] helped me to locate better," said freshman pitcher Josh Kim. "Once I consistently get things to move a certain amount, I know exactly where I can aim. If I want to induce more swings and misses, force contact, I actually have numbers that support what I want to do."

Goossen-Brown praised Kim's application of the data gathered from Rapsodo saying that the freshman is "a genius with this stuff."

"That's such a big thing about junior college. Just to develop these players and get them to that level that they were not at in high school. To get eyes on them and just try to get them looked at in any way that we can."

- Pitching coach
Josh Goossen-Brown

After playing for Valley, Goossen-Brown headed to CSUN and the University of San Diego, where he was drafted out of by the Chicago White Sox in 2014. Playing professional baseball until two years ago,



VALLEY STAR | STEPHEN CASTANEDA

RAPSODO- During bullpen sessions at Valley College, the pitch tracking device Rapsodo is in use collecting data on spin, velocity, control, command and other information.

the former reliever returned to where it started, Valley.

The Valley alumnus started using Rapsodo last year while within the confines of the pandemic. He incorporated the device with the goal of learning how to use and interpret the data to help players succeed. Spring baseball is still a few months away, but through the summer and fall, Valley's pitching guru has been preaching efficiency.

"We [Valley] use Rapsodo," said Goossen-Brown. "We have that in bullpens and we also use it in intersquads. [Rapsodo] gives you more of the picture and more than you can see out of your eyes. We've got the radar gun, a lot of Driveline PlyoCare balls. We use certain instruments with some players, but not everyone uses the same things. It all depends on what the player wants and what's best for them."

Driveline and Rapsodo had their companies gain prevalence with the goal of making baseball players better through the use of analytics. Rapsodo is one of many tools used by professional teams and employees from Driveline have been hired by MLB teams to bring

their knowledge to the majors. Knowing how to read the data can be just as crucial to the process of pitching development.

The data collected from Rapsodo helps create a profile of information that can be sent to four-year colleges and Division I programs.

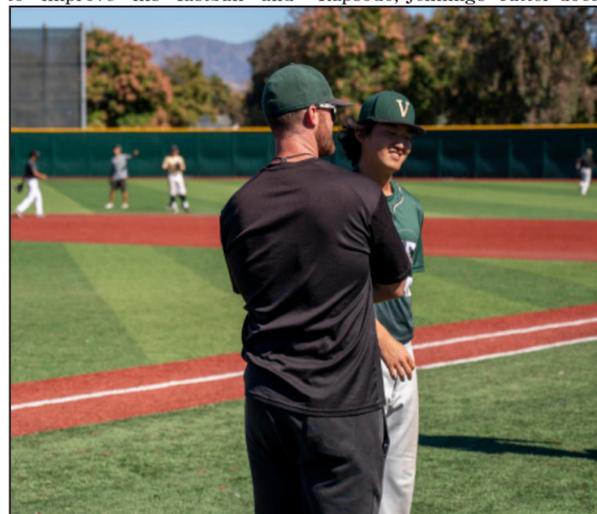
With reports easy to share with others, Goossen-Brown started posting film and pitch data on his Twitter account. Recognizing how recruiting has transformed during the pandemic, Valley pitchers can now be seen at the touch of a screen.

"That's such a big thing about junior college," said Goossen-Brown. "Just to develop these players and get them to that level that they were not at in high school. To get eyes on them and just try to get them looked at in any way that we can."

In October, Goossen-Brown posted a video of freshman pitcher Kyle Ayers in a game against Moorpark College. Averaging between 90-92 miles per hour on his fastball with a spin-rate of 2,600, the right-hander pitched two hitless innings and struck out five of the six batters he faced. Ayers credited technology

and his coach to his success on the mound, saying that Rapsodo allowed him to recognize how to improve his fastball and

In years past, a pitch thrown in the low 80s would not get much attention, but with the use of Rapsodo, Jennings' cutter does.



VALLEY STAR | STEPHEN CASTANEDA

PITCH- Pitcher Josh Kim walks by coach Goossen-Brown after a drill.

that "Goose" recruited him to Valley from nearby Notre Dame High School in Sherman Oaks.

Freshman pitcher and outfielder Owen Jennings started throwing a cutter through his work with Goossen-Brown.

"The way you throw a football is similar to how you throw a cutter," said Jennings. "I started throwing a two-seam to get some arm side run, but I could never get it. So, I started throwing the cutter and it has really helped,

especially going with a slider and cutter [pitch combination]."

The COVID-19 pandemic created a lot of challenges for community college baseball, including the cancellation of Valley's season, but Goossen-Brown recognized the struggles and took advantage by attending 2-3 high school games a week.

"A lot of the guys that we have here today are guys that I went and watched," he said. "I think it was awesome for me to get to build relationships with them last year. Unfortunately, we didn't have a season, but it was a blessing in disguise because it gave me a chance to go recruit."

All three pitchers said that Goossen-Brown and other coaches were a part of their recruitment to play for the Monarchs and are looking forward to playing this spring.

Affirming the buzz from the players surrounding Valley baseball, the pitching coach feels the same way about what is ahead.

"I think our team this year is going to be the best we've had in a long time," said Goossen-Brown. "The talent is better than ever before, and it is going to be an exciting season for us."

Review: "Halloween Kills" fails to deliver on high promise, kills time instead

David Gordon Green's second film of the classic horror franchise leaves more brain cells lost than scares endured.

MATTHEW ROYER
POLITICAL NEWS EDITOR

What could have been. Imagine a film that is charming, scary, adds on to 2018's "Halloween" and reinvents the iconic movie villain of Michael Myers. Now remove any expectation that matches that.

Delayed a year due to the pandemic, director David Gordon Green's "Halloween Kills" takes off where its last predecessor left the viewer. Occurring forty years to the day of Myers's last killing spree, survivor Laurie Strode (Jamie Lee Curtis) has finally put her assailant in what could be considered his grave. Although in traditional horror fashion, what seems to be reality is not, as Myers rises from ashes seemingly taking anyone out in his way. This leaves a rag-tag group of Haddonfield residents (Anthony Michael Hall, Charles Cyphers, Kyle Richards and Nancy Stephens) ready to avenge the lives lost and put an end to Myers' madness.

If one could read the plot for this film they could believe this was any of the other 12 films in the franchise. When watched, the same feeling resonates as nothing new is learned and the formulaic structure followed is similar to any old horror film, instead of something special as felt by many when viewing 2018's offering which provided a rejuve-

nation of the IP while matching every note of the original.

Only then can the plot advance, eliciting a response from the audience that can be summed up to viewers checking their watch for time rather than pure amazement of what is being seen on the big screen.

The fatal flaw the film creates is not through its structure or its characters fleshed out in previous films, it instead relies upon gore or "slashing" to advance the story. At times in the film, characters even try to explain Myers' motivations for his killing sprees, but what these instances end up boiling down to is run-on dialogue that leave the viewer in the same spot they were minutes earlier when the scene began. Characters are only given a sense of clarity after having been exposed to blood or having to see one of Myers' victims in front of them. Only then can the plot advance, eliciting a response from the audience that can be summed up to viewers check-



PHOTO COURTESY OF | UNIVERSAL PICTURES

HALLOWEEN- Jamie Lee Curtis (not pictured) stars as Laurie alongside the franchise character of Michael Myers in "Halloween Kills."

ing their watch for time rather than pure amazement of what is being seen on the big screen.

Acting is the least of the film's problems. The efforts of the cast can be chalked up as a positive, doing the best they can with the mess of the script provided. Industry veterans such as Jamie Lee Curtis and Judy Greer give strong performances earn-

ing their keep in the long-awaited sequel. The former provided the film with enough oomph to convince horror audiences to keep their eyes out for the next installment coming next year.

If going to see the film in theaters, lower your expectations. To truly enjoy what filmmakers Gordon Green and Danny McBride have to

offer, one must expect a film closer to Rob Zombie's poorly received reboot of the franchise instead of the classic John Carpenter and Debra Hill provided audiences with in 1978.

"Halloween Kills" is a return to the mean for the "Halloween" franchise providing moviegoers with a repetitive mess leaving more substance in blood than plot.

VALLEY'S STARS



Rated R
Not worth the watch
Now in theatres

LACCD Promotes LGBTQIA+ History Month

The district honors gay and transgender community members across its nine campuses with online and in-person events which run through November.

MARCOS FRANCO
MANAGING EDITOR

The LACCD Board of Trustees recently passed a resolution proclaiming October as LGBTQIA+ history month.

While pride month is celebrated in June throughout the United States, LACCD declares October to represent the more than 20,000 LGBTQIA+ students across the district. In honor of history month, the district is hosting events online and in person through Nov. 5 at select campuses to promote gay and queer history, although Valley College does not have any events planned other than regularly scheduled Gay Straight Alliance club meetings.

"It is imperative that students feel safe and [are] able to express themselves," said Trustee David Vela, Chair of the LGBTQIA+ Chancellor's Advisory Committee. "Our Lavender graduations would not be possible without the heroic efforts of LGBT leaders who sacrificed so much, including their lives, for us to live freely. LGBTQIA+ history month highlights the history of the LGBTQ movement and those who contributed to the movement."

The GSA club at Valley was created to promote student visibility and create a comfortable on-campus environment where members can be proud of who

they are and thrive through meeting like-minded people.

LGBTQIA+ history month recognizes the resilience and determination of those who continue the fight to live freely and equally in society, vouching to protect and help vulnerable groups thrive.

Lavender Graduation is a ceremony honoring LGBTQIA+ students, extending beyond the standard celebration of academic achievement. Not only are their academic accomplishments recognized during their time as a part of the district, but it also helps them connect with other gay and transgender members in the community.

The Board of Trustees plans to approve an LGBT history course at East LA College on Oct. 19, making it the fourth campus with a queer studies program.

Pride month commemorates the June 1969 New York Stonewall riots where protests and violent clashes between gay-

rights activists and law enforcement lasted six days. After suspicions of alcohol being served at a suspected gay bar, the New York State Liquor Authority moved to shut down the Stonewall Inn, an underground gay club in Manhattan's Greenwich Village. Police were dispatched to clear out the club, leading to the riots.

One year after the riots, on June 28, 1970, the first gay pride parades in the world were held simultaneously in New York, San Francisco, Chicago and Los Angeles. According to the Los Angeles Almanac, the march, beginning in Hollywood Boulevard and McCadden Place in Hollywood, was organized by Rev. Robert Humphries, Morris Knight and Rev. Troy Perry. The march hosted an estimated 50,000 spectators and was the only officially-permitted parade at the time.

The gay and trans community has a history of falling victim to violent crimes, with sexual orientation or gender being the driving force behind 20 percent of the total U.S. hate crimes in 2014 according to National Geographic. While anti-gay hate crimes fell slightly in 2020, anti-trans crimes rose nearly 20 percent according to NBC News.

"We have to speak up for our trans community and help them create a louder voice," said Vela. "We need to request that

the crimes are investigated fully and elect sheriffs and mayors who care."

With 13 states in the United States still holding legislation against gay marriage, the community continues to push for civil marriage rights throughout the country. The first same-sex marriage was held in San Francisco on Feb. 12, 2004 between lesbian activists Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon. The two were wed after 50 years of being in a relationship according to World Population Review. The move came following — at the time — Mayor

Gavin Newsom's order for city hall to issue marriage license to same sex couples.

LGBTQIA+ history month recognizes the resilience and determination of those who continue the fight to live freely and equally in society, vouching to protect and help vulnerable groups thrive. The district continues to advocate for gay and trans students across its nine campuses.

"The district has affirmed the lives of students of diverse identities and amplified the voices of those who have felt silenced

through its groundbreaking LGBTQIA+ Bill of Rights," read a statement on the board's resolution. "We promote a safe and inspiring teaching and learning environment free from discrimination and harassment for our students, and ensure equal and equitable access to our educational programs."

Students looking for advice to help them understand and find confidence in their sexuality are encouraged to visit the general LGBTQIA+ resources page on Valley's website.



GRAPHIC ILLUSTRATION | MATTHEW ROYER

LACCD- The district proclaimed the month of October as LGBTQIA+ history month for its nine campuses.

Valley College Unclear in its City Council Member

Either Paul Krekorian or Nithya Raman will represent Valley Glen upon approval of map, which could come as soon as Friday, Oct. 29.

MATTHEW ROYER
POLITICAL NEWS EDITOR

Valley College has been left up in the air as Los Angeles finishes up the 2020-2021 city council redistricting process.

After rounds of deliberation, community meetings and argumentation that lasted weeks, the LA City Council has received their new map of districts which will represent the city for the next ten years. While the districts still have to be certified by the council and Mayor Eric Garcetti, the results come after the redistricting commission compiled what they felt were

the fairest possible allotment of neighborhoods per district. Valley Glen, currently represented by Councilmember Paul Krekorian, was drawn into a district currently titled "02 or 04," which leaves residents of the neighborhood and Valley students unsure whether Krekorian will remain their councilmember or if newcomer to city hall Nithya Raman will take over its representation.

The district is titled "02 or 04" due to redistricting leading to a new San Fernando Valley-based section being designed by the commission. The development takes three previous dis-

tricts held by Krekorian, Raman and Bob Blumenfield, and divies up communities based on certain factors, including racial diversity, income, small businesses and socioeconomic backgrounds of individuals living in the districts.

After the redistricting process took the three districts and reallocated them, Raman voiced her frustrations.

"Not providing clarity regarding which district is which has real consequences," wrote Raman on Twitter. "Our constituents are being left in the dark on how to engage on this high stakes issue."

Krekorian displayed similar

complaints to the LA Times.

"What should have been an opportunity for public engagement has instead become a sad exercise in backroom deal-making," said Krekorian.

Both Krekorian and Raman were elected to their seats on the city council last year, the former reelected to serve his eleventh year in the position. If approved by the council, the map would place both of them in similar, but different districts than the ones that elected them. There is also a possibility they could be placed in completely different districts, leaving constituents with new representatives to the body.

The discussion over districts did not just stay in the Valley. In the city, redistricting led to a tightly contested set of votes setting the groundwork for which district USC would be placed into. The commission moved to place the university park based school into Marqueece Harris-Dawson's district on Oct. 18, but the next day, the Trojans were sent back to Curren Price's district by a vote of 11-9.

Redistricting occurs every ten years after the U.S. Census is certified. Council districts must be realigned based on shifts in demographics across the city. While the city council is

the first to be redesigned, the California state legislatures and congressional districts will also be redrawn by year-end.

The city council is set to vote on the new map by Oct. 29, according to the LA Times' David Zahniser on Twitter.

THE FACTS

Redistricting occurs every ten years after the U.S. Census is certified.

the
VALLEY STAR
The Independent Student Newspaper of Los Angeles Valley College

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Are you interested in building a writing portfolio?

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Have specialized skills?

- Graphic Designers

Enjoy writing about Entertainment, Sports, Campus Happenings, etc.?

- Cartoonists/Illustrators

Interested?

Please email Advisor Bill Dauber: dauberwj@lavc.edu
or Advisor Gerard Burkhart: burkhagj@laccd.edu

A short grace period is not going to cut it

The LACCD vaccine mandate is a difficult adjustment in the midst of a busy semester and should not go into effect this fall.

MARCOS FRANCO
MANAGING EDITOR

Implementing and enforcing a vaccine mandate for the fall semester did not go as smoothly as it could have for the district if they had gradually introduced measures before the start of the school year.

Following the district's announcement of a four-week grace period for students and staff who did not meet the original Oct. 8 and Oct. 18 deadlines to submit a negative test and proof of vaccination, there is no point in mandating the vaccine one month before the end of the semester. The revision to Board Policy 2900 states that employees have until 5 p.m. on Nov. 3 to upload proof of vaccination or submit an exemption and complete a baseline test while students are given until Nov. 19. Considering the final day of classes is Dec. 19, the district should hold off enforcing the policy until the start of winter classes.

Eighteen year old business major Nadia Araca believes that the campus did not need the mandate in the first place since the college did a good job limiting class sizes and managing social distancing.

"I think the campus was safe even before a vaccine mandate," said Araca. "I haven't gotten my first dose yet and the campus let us know at the last minute that we would need to be vaccinated."

Students and faculty are required to create a Cleared4 account and are walked through the registration process via a link sent to their outlook school email. Those who choose to submit an exemption are given a much more convenient method than those looking to upload their vaccination status. Through the student portal homepage, monarchs are able to submit religious and medical documents to the recently added "vaccine exemptions" module which does not require any additional steps compared to Cleared4. The college should expand this option to include a category for vaccinated students rather than forcing them to sort through piles of spam emails to find the original link sent to them in September.

A better idea which could have prevented the late-semester obstacle for district students would have been to follow the lead of Cal State Universities over the summer. Prior to full approval of the Pfizer vaccine, CSUs announced their plans to gradually implement a vaccine requirement on July 27 across



TEST- Students walk towards parking lot A where Fulgent Genetics hosts a vaccine and testing pop-up.

their 23 campuses that applied to 485,549 students. The introduction however gave students and faculty more than a two month deadline to submit their vaccination status by Sept. 30, four weeks prior to the start of the fall semester.

Although the district floun-

dered the introduction of the mandate, there are still options to keep students safe without interrupting the flow of the term. The most sensible solution would be to let students ride out the rest of the fall semester while planning an in-depth approach to enforce the policy

by the start of four-week winter courses on Jan. 4.

Students struggling to find the original link sent to their outlook email are asked to contact the Cleared4 help desk at covidcolleges@biocept.com.

Unsung tragedy of the pandemic: The American diet

Fast food put the U.S. on the fast track to a health emergency, and COVID-19 was a catalyst that strained the medical system.

ISAAC DEKTOR
NEWS EDITOR

COVID-19 has a stranglehold on every facet of American society from politics to economics to day-to-day life, yet the solutions enacted have one massive blind spot: the American diet.

Mask mandates have no expiration in the foreseeable future. Vaccines are being mandated frequently in both public and private sectors. Stay-at-home orders have precedent when hospitals are reaching capacity. As the pandemic rages in its second year, the country must have a nutritional reckoning and prioritize the population's health in order to attain a sense of normalcy.

Roughly a third of adults who were hospitalized or died from COVID-19 were overweight or obese according to the CDC. Obesity Reviews published a study that found obese people to be 113 percent more likely than people of healthy weight to be hospitalized, 74 percent more likely to be admitted to an ICU, and 48 percent more likely to die.

"A constellation of physiological and social factors drives those grim numbers," writes Meredith Wadman in an article on Science.org. "The biology of obesity includes impaired immunity, chronic inflammation, and blood that's prone to clot, all of which can worsen COVID-19. And because obesity is so stigmatized, people with obesity may avoid medical care."

The obesity rate for adults

"There would be no getting around the role that packaged foods and drinks play a role in overconsumption."

- Michael Moss
NY Times

in the United States was at 42.5 percent while 73.6 percent of

adults were either overweight or obese during 2017-18 according to the CDC. Adults with a body mass index, which is a person's weight in kilograms divided by the square of their height in meters, of 25-30 or 30 plus is considered overweight and obese, respectively.

Americans have not been healthy in a long time. Michael Moss begins his New York Times Magazine article titled "The Extraordinary Science of Addictive Junk Food" by chronicling an event in 1999 when representatives from the largest food companies in the country met at Pilsbury's headquarters in Minneapolis to discuss what people were beginning to call the obesity epidemic.

Michael Mudd, the vice president of Kraft global corporate affairs at the time, presented a slide presentation that depicted obesity rates nearly doubling since that evening in the Pilsbury auditorium.

"There would be no getting around the role that packaged foods and drinks play in overconsumption," wrote Moss, describing Mudd's proposal. "They

would have to pull back on their use of salt, sugar and fat, perhaps by imposing industry wide limits. But it wasn't just a matter of these three ingredients; the schemes they used to advertise and market their products were critical, too."

Moss goes on to explain a food industry term "bliss point," which refers to the ratio of ingredients in a recipe that creates "the greatest amount of crave."

Howard Moskowitz is a heavily credentialed food industry scientist who optimized products for a wide range of companies from PepsiCo to Campbell Soup.

"There's no moral issue for me," said Moskowitz in the article. "I did the best science I could. I was struggling to survive and didn't have the luxury of being a moral creature. As a researcher, I was ahead of my time."

Moss then characterizes the food industry's rigorous research into consumer preferences and how to get people to keep buying more of their products. This includes something called "vanishing caloric densi-

ty," which is the psychological tendency to overeat a food if it melts in your mouth.

According to the CDC, more than a third of adults consume fast food on any given day in the United States.

With obesity and other comorbidities being a factor in most COVID-19 hospitalizations, and the ubiquity of fast and junk food in American culture, the food industry has played a role in exacerbating the pandemic. Their impact on consumer health unfolded over the course of decades.

Many families approach Thanksgiving knowing that there will be an empty seat at the table, small businesses throughout the country are closing at an alarming rate and communities are palpably tense as the debate around vaccines polarizes the country. Lack of regard for the health and wellness of an entire country has a hefty price tag, and now the United States has paid the price.

Officers are not involved, follow the lead of AP

After decades of turmoil, journalists must acknowledge it is not their job to protect the police through vague phrases.

MATTHEW ROYER
POLITICAL NEWS EDITOR

Pick up your television remote and turn on the nightly news. More often than not, within two hours, you will see the phrase "officer-involved."

The terminology used throughout decades of journalism is a relic designed to protect the police by glossing over incidents of over-aggression, brutality and murder of innocent people. Commonly inserted in stories where firearms are used to end a pursuit or conflict, "officer-involved" confuses the reader into thinking that the police cannot be the aggressors. In 2020, after the murder of Jacob Blake at the hands of police in Kenosha, Wisconsin, the AP Stylebook released a guide for covering such instances.

"Avoid the vague 'officer-involved' for shootings and other cases involving police," wrote AP on Twitter. "Be specific about what happened. If police use the term, ask: How was the officer or officers involved? Who did the shooting? If the information is not available or not provided, spell that out."

Despite the stylebook's insistence on the shift in journalistic style, more than a year later, newsrooms across the United States are caught daily choosing the overplayed phrasing over clearer language.

No other profession is given such egregious leeway when reported upon. Pick up a newspaper, in writing is there ever an example of an attorney-involved

court case, politician-involved legislation or teacher-involved education? The answer is clear, of course not. These positions of power, while having the ability to create catalytic change both positive and negative, are reported on by stating the facts, without skipping details by hiding behind broad diction.

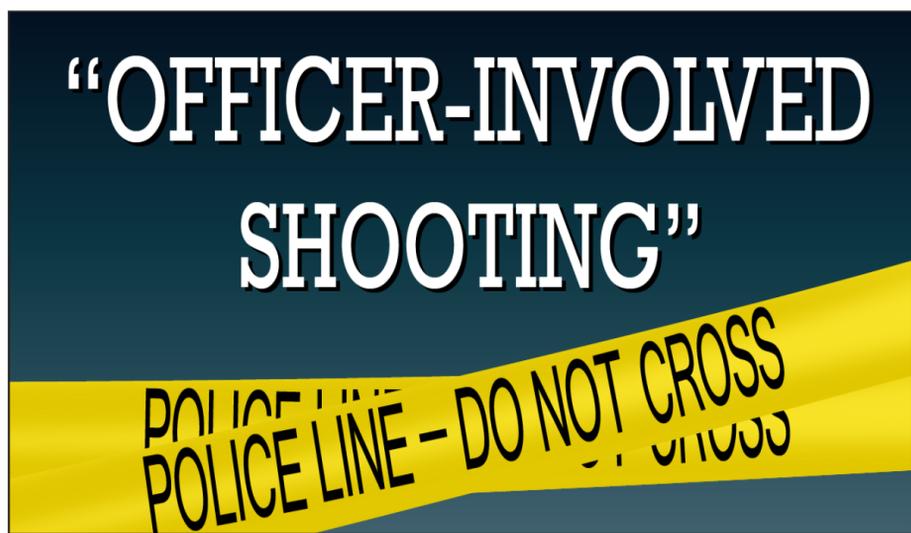
Newsrooms have a duty to provide impartial coverage of events to the general public, who consume the news under the assumption that its investigation is thorough.

Every day, especially on television, the choice to use "officer involved" is a choice of power.

For example, when a shooting occurs, it is up to reporters to collect details accurately without relying on local law enforcement that will give their biased account of the situation. If summarizing the events means including "officer-involved" instead of stronger, more detailed language that features the how, who, where and when.

If not following the guide the stylebook laid out for journalists, those in the occupation which writes "the first draft of history," as Philip Graham once said, are subscribing to a world of laziness, committing themselves to the side of the oppressor instead of the truth.

The LA Times, having



CAUTION - Old journalistic terminology does not capture the detailed truth of police shootings, concealing their role as the aggressors.

changed their style to match AP Stylebook, filed a day-of correction on Oct. 5 for their story originally titled "Woman hospitalized after Simi Valley officer-involved shooting." After the story was published, observations were made online that the news organization chose the wording provided by police on the scene, instead of the more accurate title "Woman hospitalized after being shot by Simi Valley police," which the headline was changed to shortly thereafter.

While the editing process in journalism should have caught this, an assumption can be made

that due to the nature of the story, those reviewing the language remembered what they were taught instead of the newer suggestion.

This recent case of "officer-involved" wording was a mistake that was quickly corrected, but every day, especially on local television, the choice to use "officer-involved" is a choice of power.

Siding with law enforcement instead of readers or viewers who simply want accurate coverage is a purposeful foundering that pushes the foundations of journalism into a dark corner covered in yellow "caution" tape.

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.



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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.

Monarchs launch 17-point comeback

Two touchdown receptions by sophomore Dupree Fuller Jr. and game-winning catch by sophomore Daniel Del Villar propelled the Monarchs to a 34-30 win against the Vaqueros.



VICENTE ZEPEDA (center), Valley defensive back, blocks Vaqueros Jake Lambden and Darius Hurd on Saturday at Monarch Stadium.

EDWARD SEGAL
STAFF WRITER

The Monarchs pulled off a possible season transforming upset over the No. 25 Vaqueros, rallying in the second half for a comeback win.

Valley College football (2-5, SCFA 1-1) ended its two-game losing streak against California Community College Sports Information Association's No. 25 ranked team Santa Barbara City College (4-2, SCFA 1-1) in dramatic fashion on Saturday night. With four touchdown passes and one rushing touchdown by sophomore quarterback Isaiah Johnson, Valley was productive enough in the second half to defeat their conference opponents and come away with a 34-30 victory.

While Valley's other quarterbacks suffered injuries in the first game against Mt. San Antonio College, the fourth quarterback, Johnson, who was initially a left back, stepped up and had his most efficient performance of the season.

The Vaqueros opened the game with a 17-0 lead, and at halftime looked to be in control following a touchdown pass that put them up 24-7, but the Monarchs pushed back in the third quarter, holding the Vaqueros scoreless. The defensive effort after halftime provided the extra spark for the Monarchs to escape with a four point victory.

Before the game, coach Lester Towns told the team to control the ball - this being an

area of concern following last week's loss to Antelope Valley College in which dropped passes were a big factor in the Monarchs' downfall.

On the first play of the game, sophomore defensive back JaLani Ellison returned the Vaqueros' kickoff for 45 yards, only to fumble when being tackled, turning the ball over from the get-go. After Santa Barbara got off to a 17-0 lead, they looked to add to it by risking a fourth down conversion, only to have the ball stripped and recovered by freshman Elijah Hudson.

On the next play, the Vaqueros' turnover turned into points for the Monarchs when

sophomore wide receiver Dallas Martin caught a 57-yard touchdown pass from Johnson, cutting the deficit to 10.

The momentum looked to have shifted, but it was not until the second half that the Monarchs picked up their intensity.

"Focus on what we can control" was Towns' message to the team at halftime. He emphasized "doing the little things right."

The game turned around for Valley following multiple stops on the defensive end, as well as back-to-back touchdown receptions by sophomore wide receiver Dupree Fuller Jr. in the third quarter that made the score

24-21.

The Monarch's defense stifled the Vaqueros, holding them to one touchdown in the second half which came off an interception from the Monarch's 13-yard line, putting the Vaqueros up 30-21 in the fourth quarter. The Monarchs quickly answered, with Johnson rushing 2 yards for a touchdown to make it 30-27.

The Vaqueros were 3 yards away from icing the game with under three minutes left, but two deflected passes led to another failed fourth down conversion, giving the Monarchs the ball with 2:45 left to play.

One accurate pass after another by Johnson gave the

Monarchs an opportunity at first-and-goal to take the lead. With nine seconds left, Johnson threw a 9-yard pass to sophomore wide receiver Daniel Del Villar for the game-winning touchdown.

"The hardest thing is keeping them focused after a win, [making] sure they continue to put in the work ethic."

- Head Coach Lester Towns

"This is when it's fun, when I see you guys compete," Towns told the team in a huddle.

Johnson finished the night completing 34-48 passes for 339 yards, four touchdowns and one interception.

After the game, the Monarchs celebrated their first division win thanks to Del Villar's first touchdown of the season.

"The hardest thing is keeping them focused after a win," said Towns. "[Making] sure they continue to put in the work ethic."

The Monarchs' next game is at home on Saturday, Oct. 30 at 6 p.m. against Moorpark College, where they will attempt to win two games in a row for the first time this season.



DAVID FRANCIS JR., ELIJAH HUDSON, and SREE SAI PRANAV SINGAMSETTI, walk off the field after their 34-30 victory against the Vaqueros on Saturday.



DANIEL DEL VILLAR gets ready for the next play during Saturday's game against Santa Barbara. Del Villar caught the game-winning 9-yard pass from Johnson during the fourth quarter.



ISAIAH JOHNSON attempts to run the ball during the second quarter. Johnson threw four touchdown passes and rushed for one touchdown during Saturday's game against Santa Barbara.



COACH LESTER TOWNS and COACH ROBBIE BARSTOW talk to fans and family on the field after their 34-30 victory against Vaqueros.

MONARCHS RESULTS

FOOTBALL

6	VALLEY	
40	ANTELOPE VALLEY	
34	VALLEY	
30	SANTA BARBARA	

Overall W-L	2-5	Streak	Won 1
PCT	0.286	Home	2-1
Overall Ranking	5th	Away	0-4

Next:

Moorpark College at Valley College Oct. 30 @ 6pm

Santa Monica College at Santa Monica Nov. 6 @ 1pm

MEN'S WATER POLO

19	VALLEY	
6	VENTURA	
20	VALLEY	
7	SANTA MONICA	

Overall W-L	7-12	Streak	Won 2
PCT	0.368	Home	3-1
Overall Ranking	4th	Away	1-3

Next:

Western State Conference Tournament
 First WSC game at Citrus College Nov. 5 @ TBA
 Second WSC game at Citrus College Nov. 6 @ TBA

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Next:

LA Valley Tournament

Santa Barbara at Valley College Nov. 10 @ 7pm

LA Valley Crossover

Oxnard College at Valley College Nov. 12 @ 5pm

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

NO OFFICIAL SCORES WERE REPORTED FOR SCRIMMAGE AGAINST VALLEY COLLEGE ALUMNI ON OCT. 23

Next:

Victor Valley College at Valley College Nov. 13 @ 3pm

WOMEN'S SOCCER

0	VALLEY	
3	ANTELOPE VALLEY	
1	VALLEY	
0	SANTA MONICA	

1	VALLEY	
1	CITRUS	

0	VALLEY	
1	WEST LA	

Overall W-L-T	4-10-2	Streak	Lost 1
PCT	0.313	Home	0-8-1
Overall Ranking	5th	Away	4-2-1

Next:

College of the Canyons at Canyons Nov. 2 @ 6pm

Bakersfield College at Valley College Nov. 5 @ 3pm

Antelope Valley College at Antelope Nov. 9 @ 1pm

WOMEN'S WATER POLO

5	VALLEY	
11	FRESNO CITY	
5	VALLEY	
16	ORANGE COAST	

3	VALLEY	
7	CYPRESS	

LONG BEACH TOURNAMENT CANCELED, DUE TO AN ELECTRIC FIRE AND NO POWER ON CAMPUS

Overall W-L	7-8	Streak	Lost 3
PCT	0.333	Home	3-0
Overall Ranking	5th	Away	2-1

Next:

Santa Barbara Tournament

Santa Barbara City College at Santa Barbara High School Oct. 30 @ 10:30am