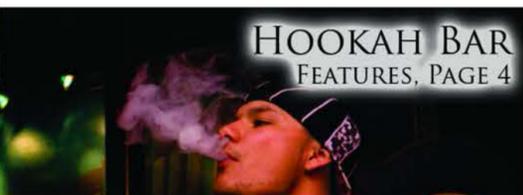




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The Renegade Rip

BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE

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New student government to take office



DAVID KARNOWSKI / THE RIP
Lisa English was elected Student Government Association president.

By Brian N. Willhite
Reporter

The election results are in, and the Student Government Association at Bakersfield College will change leadership this fall semester.

During Spring Fling week March 22-25, students gathered to vote for their candidates in the Fireside Room on the BC campus. Voting also took place at the Weill Institute and the Delano campus.

Most of the student officials elected will be new to their position this year, except current vice president Chris Ballard, who ran unopposed. Most of the newly elected officials are also currently SGA senators.

New SGA president Lisa English is anticipating her new position and looking forward to July 1, when she will officially take office. English also reflected on the elections and her plans for the new school year.

"It was a really exciting journey," said English about the election process. "I went to a lot of classes and did a lot of campaigning. I thought that would work for me, instead of just having a picture on the wall."

"This year, we're looking forward to continuing the food pantry, of course, and hopefully adding some new things.

One of the things I'm really concerned with is the campus renovations and getting some flowers put in," English said.

English is currently an ambassador for the Agriculture Department and an SGA senator.

Three students ran for the president's seat in the elections, yet only one student ran for the vice president position. Ballard expressed his opinion about running unopposed in the race as well as his optimism for the upcoming school year.

"While I am disappointed I didn't have the chance to run a campaign with anyone running against me, I'm glad I get to serve the student body for another year and continue the work I've been doing this year," said Ballard.

"We'd like to continue our work with the food pantry, and we just got word that some of the faculty parking spots will be reserved for students with hybrid cars, which is something we've been working with. Campus renovations will continue, and our plans from this year will fall into next year, and we hope to improve the students' time here as best we can."

The elections held on campus offered incentives for student voters, such as free T-shirts and a chance to enter into a drawing to win a BC bookstore voucher worth \$100.

Many student voters had mixed reactions about being involved in the student elections. Some were more interested in Please see ELECTIONS, Page 5

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Baseball team starts streak

Above: Bakersfield College pitcher Bryan Maxwell delivers a pitch during a game against Saddleback College at BC on April 2.

Left: Bakersfield College outfielder Greg Osteen attempts to beat a play at third base against Los Angeles Valley College at BC on March 25.

For more baseball, please see page 10.

PHOTOS BY GREGORY D. COOK

Campus under construction

By Katherine J. White
Contributing reporter

Many corners of the Bakersfield College main campus either are or will be experiencing new constructions, renovations and upgrades.

Not the least of which, according to Kern Community College District Project Manager Daniel Reed, will be a photovoltaic tractor system built into a carport and located at BC's northeast parking lot near the FACE building.

On this carport, according to Paula Bray, BC manager for maintenance and operations, will be photocells following the sun, capturing the sun's rays. Power is generated through these captured rays. This device will compensate for approximately 2,200,000-kilowatt hours of BC's main campus electrical use. Construction will begin this May or June and conclude around Sept. or Oct. 2010, Reed said. According to Gary Reed, KCCD's director of construction, there was no open land for the photovoltaic system, so the decision was made to put the system into a parking area.

Another energy saver, according to Bray and both Daniel and Gary Reed, is the thermal energy system tank located by the Levinson building and the Grace Van

Dyke Bird Library. This tank is a device for air conditioning through chilling and storing water. According to Gary Reed, cold water is what runs the air conditioning on campus. This system will connect two chiller loops together to form one system. BC is awaiting final authorization by PG&E for use, said Bray.

According to Bray, BC, in conjunction with the Student Government Association, is planning to renovate the game room in the cafeteria. Also, Daniel Reed mentioned that ADA accessibility was recently boosted by the installation of an automatic door push button on the outside of the Finlinson building. The cost for this installation, according to Daniel Reed, was approximately \$6,000. Reed also mentioned that the Norman Levan Center for the Humanities is "96 percent complete." Currently, said Reed, fire alarms are being tested and handrails are being installed.

"BC is using money wisely," said Raylee Maynard, 20, BC journalism major.

Joseph Deleon, 19, electronics major, agreed that BC is using construction money well.

"It's good that BC is trying to save energy. I have no complaints," said Daniel Munoz, 18, digital arts major.

Discovery star Deanne Bell a smashing success

By Laura Liera
Reporter

Bakersfield College's Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) program sponsored a lecture from Discovery Channel maverick engineer Deanne Bell on March 23 in the Fireside Room.

The event had an audience of more than 30 and many students were interested in knowing how Bell had come so far in her life. Angelina Mata, 19, said she was excited to know more about her.

"She seems very interesting, and she has come out on TV and that is always exciting, seeing someone from TV in person," Mata said. "If I see her show, I'll say 'Hey, I know her.'"

Bell earned a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Washington University in



JOSEPH COTA / THE RIP

Deanne Bell of the Discovery Channel show "Smash Lab" speaks at Bakersfield College's Fireside Room on March 23.

St. Louis in 2002. As an optomechanical design engineer in the aerospace industry, she designed a FLIR (Forward Looking Infrared) system and a LADAR

optical navigation system with Raytheon. She hosted PBS's "Design Squad" before becoming a scientist on Discovery's "Smash Lab," according to her online biography.

She presented her life journey of becoming an engineer through a PowerPoint to the audience.

"I was born to be a nerd," she said. "When I first learned how to read, I would read electrical engineer journals and try to pronounce all the words in them."

In college, she didn't know exactly what to do. She knew she liked math and science, and liked taking things apart and putting them back together. She saw many possibilities while studying engineering.

"I had and have these passions, some whacky ideas sometimes, but that is what makes me different," she said.

Once she was out of college and in the working industry, she had the opportunity to build and see things she had never seen in the classroom.

"In college you learn the theory of what you're studying, and when you get out into the industry, it's a total different atmosphere, a better one because you get to actually work hands on with what you love, even if that means you have to try and try again until it works," said Bell.

Bell gave examples of seven friends of hers who have careers in engineering but took their passion into work, one doing robotic furniture, for example. "They all do different jobs, jobs that they love, stuff that is interesting to them, and they have fun while doing it," she said.

"My dad taught me to imagine Please see BELL, Page 5



GREGORY D. COOK / THE RIP

The thermal energy system tank on the Bakersfield College campus will connect two air conditioning chiller loops and save energy, as seen here on April 5.

Spring fling brings many festivities



MATEO M. MELERO / THE RIP

Students from Emily Maddigan's sculpture class decorate a papier-mache bird near the fine arts building March 23.



DAVID KARNOWSKI / THE RIP

Bakersfield College student Louie Vigil competes in a pie-eating contest during Spring Fling in the BC Free Speech Area on March 23.



Left: From left, Ronnie Skiles, Saydi Ocampo and Jeanette Stoller battle in a game of tug-of-war in the Free Speech Area of Bakersfield College during Spring Fling on March 24. Participants received a \$10 BC bookstore voucher upon completion.

Right: Student Government Association Senator Shawn Newsom takes a swing for the Bakersfield College SGA in a softball game against faculty March 25. The faculty won the game 13-3.

MATEO M. MELERO / THE RIP



By Mateo M. Melero
Reporter

Spring Fling flung its way across the Bakersfield College campus March 22-25, inciting games, festivities, election booths and anthropomorphic bird sculptures.

Sponsored by the Student Government Association, numerous activities were offered to the students throughout the week. Tug-of-war, sack race games were held and all participants received a \$10 voucher for the BC bookstore.

"Overall, I think Spring Fling went really well," said Bethany Rice, SGA activities liaison. "We have gotten some feedback from the students. Everyone seems to have enjoyed themselves."

On Tuesday, a cakewalk was made available to the students. Stopping to participate between classes, students like Oshea Webber walked the circle as long as it took to win a cake. Legislative Liaison Kristen Mercer and Vice President Chris Ballard awarded winners of the walk with their choice of lemon, German Chocolate, coconut or carrot cake.

Later Tuesday morning, a cart of pies was rolled out. Intended for a series of pie-eating contests, only one round was held due to the messy nature of the sport and the lack of willing participants.

With pieces of peach pie falling from his face, Bryan Ramirez said, "I don't feel so good," moments after winning.

Large multicolored papier-mache birds were displayed all along the campus center. An assignment from Emily Maddigan's sculpture class, students lined the area in front of the fine arts building with their projects, attracting the children from the BC child development center.

Free food was also provided to the students. Sandwiches, hot dogs, churros, corn on the cob and drinks were passed out throughout the week in the campus center. Students stood in long speedy lines as Alex Gomez, Penny Loos and Deana Urias of BC Food Services served the treats to eager students.

Falling during the week of SGA elections, the week saw an SGA information table set up just outside the Campus Center. SGA senators Sean Hill and Katrina Oldershaw informed students on the workings and purpose of the elections. The SGA staff surveyed willing students in an attempt to discover what the student body would like to see more of on campus. SGA t-shirts of various colors and sizes were handed out to those who participated in the elections and the survey.

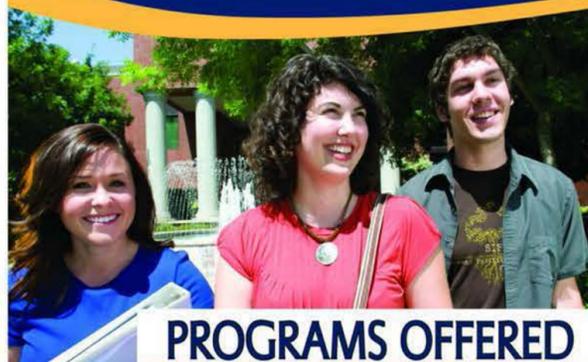
Election booths and information tables were also set up in the free speech area. Club info and bake sale tables from MECHA, the Geology Club, the Spanish Club, Fresno State, and Classified Memorial Scholarships were displayed throughout the week, informing on off campus activities, further scholastic opportunities, and money that could benefit them in their scholastic career.

Spring Fling events concluded Thursday with a softball game between SGA elected officials and BC staff. The game saw dramatic slides and heavy hits. The staff triumphed over SGA with a score of 13-3.

"The process is pretty intricate," Rice said on putting together the annual event. "We have to come up with ideas; get everything started and then search for materials on the Internet, and find things here at the local stores in town if we can. Then we have to get it approved through the committee meetings, then the senate, then following through with the purchasing process and then the whole actual playing process."

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Florida band values crowds at The Dome

By Vincent Perez
News editor

Hey Monday lead guitarist and co-lyricist Mike Gentile, 22, and the other members of the South Florida pop rock five-piece band, appreciate Bakersfield. During the Decaydance/Columbia Records band's very first tour in 2008, Hey Monday played at the Bakersfield Dome and it was there that Gentile noticed the crowd's reaction.

"The thing about Bakersfield is that it's a special place for us to play because on our first tour ever with the Cab on the Why So Serious? Tour, it was the first show we played where kids actually sang along with our songs."

Gentile added how Hey Monday's March 25 Alternative Press Tour performance at the Bakersfield Dome went compared to their first show in Bakersfield, "We played there (the Bakersfield Dome) for the first time since that show over a year and half ago, and kids were awesome. It was a great show."

Hey Monday formed in late 2007 as lead vocalist and co-lyricist Cassadee Pope, 20, finished high school, according to Gentile.

"All of us were in different local bands ... those bands broke up and Cassadee [Pope] and I started Hey Monday and we asked [rhythm guitarist] Alex [Lipshaw] to join and we had a different drummer at the time, Elliot [James], who quit, so we asked Pat [McKenzie] to play for us [after James left in September 2009]."

Gentile also talked about the band's search for a bass player. "We needed a bass player that could sing backup vocals well. We got into contact with Michael 'Jersey' Moriarity through mutual friends. He used to intern at Columbia Records and a friend that we know through the label and management told us about him."

Gentile added how the first sessions went with Moriarity. "He came down [to Florida] from New Jersey and just jammed with him and vibed really well ... so it just worked.

That's how Hey Monday came together."

Gentile later went into detail about former drummer Elliot James' departure.

"Music is awesome and everybody loves playing it, but touring is a whole other level and some people are just not cut out for it. There's a lot of sacrificing, you don't get to see your loved ones."

One of Hey Monday's biggest influences, according to Gentile, was San Diego's Blink 182 and other pop punk artists.

"Blink 182 was a big influence on all of us. I remember growing up, before [we] started writing [our] own songs we would all play in bands that would cover Blink 182 and Good Charlotte."

Gentile added, "They've [Blink 182] always been a huge influence on our writing."

"All of us grew up loving and listening to New Found Glory, Green Day, Something Corporate and a lot of those Drive-Thru [Records] bands like Midtown, stuff like that."

Gentile does not stray far from what he and the band listened to when they were younger.

"All of us are really hook-orientated, pop-driven music followers. We like music that's catchy, that's going to grab your attention. We always gravitate toward that pop rock music. That's what we grew up listening to, that's what we still listen to and that's what we love to play."

Gentile went on to describe the way simple hooks in songs appeal to him.

"All those bands, if you listen to those songs, they're so simple but there's so much dynamic to it. It's a lot harder to write a simple song that is going to have something for everybody in it."

Gentile said that the Goo Goo Dolls and Matchbox Twenty influenced the band and that Michelle Branch influenced Pope.

"That's [Branch's music] one of Cassadee's [Pope] huge, huge, huge influences and that influence comes out a lot more on this new record."

Hey Monday's follow-up album to their 2008 debut, "Hold on Tight," is set to be released in

mid-June, according to reports.

Gentile commented on the name of the band's second full-length album.

"There's nothing official. There's been a couple names tossed around but we don't have a name for the new album yet."

As of early April, the band has stated the name of their sophomore album will be named "Beneath It All."

When asked how difficult it is for a band to tour in today's music business, Gentile responded, "It's hard, especially the way the music industry is right now with album sales and everybody always downloading music ... it used to be huge revenue for a band to make money off of their album sales. Kids don't buy albums anymore - it's all on the Internet."

Yet, Gentile had optimistic words about Hey Monday's fans.

"We have incredible fans and supportive fans that will come out to shows and buy merchandise. It's like hustling: What you put in is what you get out."

Gentile added, "We feel that incredible fan base, even with a really shitty economy, kids are always there backing us and supporting us to make sure we have enough gas to make it to the next state."

He added with a realistic view, "It does affect us, but you're a touring musician and you're not in it for the money - for the love of playing your music in a different city every night with some of your best friends."

Being on tour with a female singer with four males can be challenging, but Gentile sees no difference in Pope compared to the rest of the guys in Hey Monday.

"We don't look at it like that. Yeah, she's a girl and we're four guys but it's like four or five best friends. Granted, things will get said sometimes but we are respectful of one another and we've been together so long you know what to do and what not to do around certain people. Honestly, we're so used to being around each other. It's like five people living together: a family."



GREGORY D. COOK / THE RIP

Hey Monday bassist Michael "Jersey" Moriarity (left), vocalist Cassadee Pope (center) and lead guitarist Mike Gentile play at the Bakersfield Dome on March 25.



GREGORY D. COOK / THE RIP

Hey Monday vocalist Cassadee Pope (left) and bassist Micheal "Jersey" Moriarity (right) play at the Bakersfield Dome on March 25 on the Alternative Press tour.

Reel Big Fish 'take on' B. Ryder's



GREGORY D. COOK / THE RIP

Reel Big Fish trombonist Dan Regan performs at B. Ryder's Sports Bar & Grill on March 28. The ska punk six-piece band from Huntington Beach played their own fan favorites and covers that ranged from A-Ha ("Take on Me") to Metallica ("Enter Sandman").



GREGORY D. COOK / THE RIP

Reel Big Fish guitarist/lead vocalist Aaron Barrett plays his guitar for the crowd at B. Ryders Sports Bar & Grill on March 28 with drummer Ryland Steen in the background. The band played an encore after fans chanting for one more song.

Barbecue connoisseurs train at Crystal Palace

By Mateo M. Melero
Reporter

Inside the vintage setting of Buck Owen's Crystal Palace on March 20, barbecue connoisseurs gathered among the stage floor, listening intently to the judging instructor of the Kansas City Barbeque Society.

Held in preparation by Memorial Hospital for the upcoming second annual Bakersfield's Biggest Baddest BBQ on May 21-22 at Stramler Park, the prospering judges and competitors listened intently to the rules, regulations, and judging instructions of KCBS judge trainer Gene Goycochea.

"We have very strict rules, a very fair system and blind judging," said Goycochea.

Informed on everything from accepted garnishes for the dish, fresh green lettuce, curly parsley, flat leaf parsley and cilantro, as well as the restricted Kale, endive, red tipped lettuce, lettuce cores and other vegetation — the aspiring KCBS judges listened intently on the rules of the trade.

"If you're going to garnish with iceberg you can't show the white core, the white core is not allowed," said Goycochea.

"You will see teams that turn in a bed of parsley, where the curly part of the parsley is up to the top and the stems are down below. It has a great presentation, works well for parsley, the only problem is sometimes you pick up some of that parsley when you're a judge, and it just doesn't taste well with pulled pork."

Proper meats were discussed in detail. Participants in the event are allowed to cook with kosher chicken, Cornish Game Hen,

"We are just hoping that we found a signature event, not only for the hospital but for the community."

-Janelle Capra, director of Children's Miracle Network at Memorial Hospital

pork ribs with bone, Boston Butt, whole shoulder pork, and whole, flat or point beef brisket.

As far as cooking methods and gadgets go, for the accepted meats, contestants spend incredible amounts of dollars on grills and stoves.

Gas and electric heated BBQs are prohibited and contestants are only allowed to cook with wood and charcoal.

"Smoke turns the bone red," said Goycochea, as he informs on natural occurrences that might thwart accurate ratings on contestant submissions.

At noon the aspiring KCBS judges were served a round of pork, ribs and chicken in test of the knowledge they acquired so far in lecture.

Sipping from the bottles of water on the tables, and nibbling on crackers to dissolve the taste from the prior entry, judges chewed their food carefully while taking into consideration tenderness, skin consistency, flavor, as well as looking for any of the disqualifying attributes.

The trainees placed their verdicts on actual KCBS scorecards, and Goycochea discussed the entrées' pros and cons after each round.

Contestants are judged blindly at KCBS sanctioned contest, and it is the duty of the judges to be

well versed in the art of BBQ.

A serious subculture, BBQ competitions are seen worldwide as well as on television programs like The Learning Channel's BBQ Pitmasters.

Last year's Bakersfield's Biggest Baddest BBQ drew in 35 teams, and organizers are now being told by KCBS to expect around 50 teams for the upcoming event.

"We are just hoping that we found a signature event, not only for the hospital, but for the community," said Janelle Capra, the director for the Children's Miracle Network at Bakersfield Memorial Hospital.

Organized by Bakersfield's Memorial Hospital, all proceeds for the BBQ competition will go to the Children's Miracle Network in hopes of building a children's intensive care hospital in Bakersfield.

"We are growing to develop expanded pediatrics and pediatric intensive care. We will be the only one in southern San Joaquin Valley that will have one between Fresno and Los Angeles," said Capra.

Bakersfield's Biggest Baddest BBQ runs from May 21 to 22. Gates will be open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The entry fee is \$10 and children under the age of 12 get in free.

Basketball a new challenge for deaf at BC

By Laura Liera
Reporter

Bakersfield College American Sign Language held its "Want to Play" second annual deaf community basketball tournament on March 20 at the BC gym.

The tournament consisted of eight teams and each had ASL BC students participating. Marykate Alderette, 20, speech and language pathology major, attended the event to do community service hours for her ASL class. "I have to attend deaf community services for class and

this turned out to be really fun and kind of intimidating," said Alderette. She understands most of the people who sign but has trouble signing back. "Playing basketball was interesting. You can't talk, so it's hard to communicate, but I think our team did pretty well at the end."

The connection between BC ASL program and the deaf community is organized by Jeff Jackson, pastor of a deaf church in Bakersfield. He organizes the tournaments, in terms of bringing the teams together and making the announcements.

Tom Moran, professor of ASL, said "the idea is to expose the BC ASL students to the deaf community and an event like this is just one of many." Events such as Starbucks coffee night, pizza night, deaf church, picnics, along with more events, are also held in order for students to use their sign language and meet members of the deaf community.

Teams were set up through the ASL classes and included both deaf and hearing people on the teams. There teams consisted of both female and male, and the rules of the game were explained

in sign language at the beginning of the game. There was no rough play permitted and each team called their own fouls. Each team played 15 minutes and at the end, the two teams that had won all of their games played for first place.

Pam Davis, BC ASL professor, said that many students are a bit apprehensive when they attend deaf community events. "At first, students are very nervous to go into the deaf community and meet people, but once they meet a deaf person for the first time and actually sign, and they use

their sign language skills they are learning in the classroom, they think it's cool. It's really inspiring, so getting students into deaf communities is the best thing we can do," said Davis.

Deisy Gonzalez, 19, psychology major, enjoyed coming to play basketball but felt a sense of nervousness toward the beginning.

"I was nervous, but the deaf people playing with us were so nice that it made it easier and more comfortable to sign and communicate with them," said Gonzalez.

Davis added that speaking or knowing how to communicate in more than one language has a lot of benefits.

"Intellectually, students that know more than one language may score higher on tests and have a better opportunity for jobs. They are more world oriented, in a sense that they are not ethnocentric, in a sense that they are only familiar with one language and one culture. Knowing more than one language gives you a chance to view things from other horizons and see different perspectives," she said.

New hookah lounge offers more than smoke

Denise M. Gonzalez
Reporter

Bakersfield residents are now being treated to a new indoor hookah cafe. Elixir Cafe is now the second hookah-inspired lounge in town although this particular lounge offers its customers a diverse mix of cultured decor and food.

Esraal Alqudah, owner of Elixir Cafe located on the corner of Brimhall Road and Calloway Drive, took time and thought to bring residents a new authentic atmosphere for all to enjoy.

"I have seven successful years in the restaurant and hookah business," said Alqudah. "My family also runs and operates hookah cafes in the Orange County and Los Angeles areas, so I have gained a lot of knowledge on how this business should be given to customers."

The cafe is open to the public during their morning and evening restaurant lunch hours. Alqudah specifically created a diverse mix of authentic cuisine to be offered. He decided to expand his menu far from the typical Mediterranean food offered at hookah lounges.

"We serve the all-American fast foods, appetizers, shakes, coffee and desserts," said Alqudah. "Along with our over top list of hookah flavors for the 18 and over to enjoy."

The Elixir Cafe offers an extensive diverse choice of decor and a mix of exotic luxury with a bit of old vintage touches. The cafe is surrounded from top to bottom with warm and vibrant color hues. Couches are aligned on the four walls that contrast circular tables that fill the entire room. All four walls are given a specific authentic style theme so its customers can feel as if they were in a completely cultured state of mind and atmosphere.

Special events will be occurring periodically. Guest DJ's



MATEO M. MELERO / THE RIP

Karley Wilson exhales the flavored tobacco smoke and relaxes on a velvet chair at Elixir Cafe Bar on March 28.

will perform on hookah nights for all to enjoy. The cafe is set to have an affordable menu of food and hookah flavors.

"We have been open for four weeks," said Alqudah. "We are having a grand opening March 27 were I will bring to feature Bakersfield's well known DJ's, DJ Mike and DJ Oso Mighty."

The cafe allows residents to socialize and have a place to go and actually lounge. Elixir also offers free Wi-Fi Internet access to its customers.

"We have free Wi-Fi, which allows people to come and do anything like homework, read, socialize and just enjoy themselves," said Alqudah. "I come with experience and a family with a successful background in the business."

"I am currently advertising on the local radio stations, Myspace and word of mouth. Bakersfield residents have a new place to enjoy and I hope for all to take advantage in the towns new hookah cafe."

Edwards Cinema broadcasts UFC fight, locals gather to watch

By Mateo M. Melero
Reporter

On March 27, Edwards Cinema hosted its first live Ultimate Fighting Championship.

Fans of all ages, shapes and sizes filled the theater, eager to view the UFC mixed-martial arts show on a large screen. Entrance cost \$20, and attendees stocked up at the snack bar before entering the theater.

"I've been watching UFC for about two years now," said Mory Poshtkoushi, "I used to go to the Firehouse and watch it, but at the Firehouse the seats aren't as nice and it's a lot louder."

"I prefer to watch it at theater instead of a bar," said Michael Pinon before entering the theater.

On the other side of town, B. Ryders Sports Bar and Grill held a viewing of the fight. A \$10 cover charge was asked upon entry, and fans boisterously expressed their excitement as they watched the fight on the two big-screen televisions.

Some people shouted passionately as the fighters battled, some chain-smoked cigarettes outside, periodically looking through the glass to catch the glimpse of the intensity, and some sat quietly in the booths sipping their beverages, commenting on the fight among friends.

The venues offered an alternative to the home pay-per-view cost of approximately \$50. Ed-

wards Cinema sold out shortly after 7 p.m., and fans seemed pleased by the new choice in UFC viewings.

Rachel Morales, 18, a fan of heavyweight Frank Mir, said, "I've ordered on pay-per-view before, and I would also go to the pizza place and watch it there, but once I found out that it was in theaters, I thought, 'That's kind of cool' and so I decided to watch it here."

As far as the loudness and passion that can be found at other venues, Morales said, "Actually I like it when there are people shouting out for their favorite fighter. It's pretty cool because you get to see who is going for who."

A recently developed tactic in theaters, cinemas are now offering alternatives to the usual Hollywood produced movies. Edwards has been scheduling live opera showings Saturday mornings for the past two years. According to General Manager Herman Mil, the operas usually draw a crowd of 100 people each Saturday.

Live concerts have also been added to the selection. The Black Eyed Peas E.N.D. of the World tour was streamed live on March 30 and Kenny Chesney's Summer in 3D will open April 21.

Shows and plays that deviate from the traditional movie are expected regularly at Edwards in the future. "It's the next evolution in theater," said Mil.



RYAN GEORGE / THE RIP

Second place Sean Minor and first place Sherry Raymond pose for a photo after the Bakersfield Breakfast Lions Club Hold 'Em Tournament at the Elks Lodge on March 27.

Charities benefited in Texas Hold 'Em tournament at Elks Lodge

By Ryan George
Reporter

The Bakersfield Breakfast Lions Club presented their fourth annual Texas Hold 'Em Tournament on March 27 at the Elks Lodge to raise money for multiple charities.

As of late, the Lions have "purchased up to four to five K-9 companions, which assist people with special needs," as Randy Raymond Jr., the operations supervisor of Raymond's Trophy's and Awards and member of the Lions stated in an email.

With around 100 Lions members and card players in attendance, the dance floor at the Elks Lodge quickly transformed into a small casino, finished with card tables, poker chips and dealers set to let the cards fly at 6:30 p.m. Seats for the tournament cost \$100 each, including a steak dinner and an

open bar.

One of the dealers had professional experience. David Hulsey spent six years working at the Golden West Casino in east Bakersfield. Hulsey commented on his education: "I went to Bakersfield College for two years and transferred and graduated Foothill High in 1966, and then my son graduated [at Foothill] in '88."

Hulsey dealt the final table, with another 9 players, including the entire Raymond family: mom Sherry, dad Randy Sr., older brother Randy Jr. and younger Joe, and other Lions members, unidentified, at the final table. At this time, blinds were at \$5,000 small and \$10,000 big. Sherry Raymond dominated coming into the final table with an estimated \$100,000 in chips. One by one all of the other players fell, and Sherry Raymond beat out Sean Minor with a king of spades.

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