

# Anniversary of Kern Water brings political bigwigs to BC

By Keith Kaczmarek  
Reporter

Kevin McCarthy, Republican congressman and majority whip for the House of Representatives, attended the Kern County Vision 2061 event at Bakersfield College that was being held in order to celebrate the 50-year anniversary of the Kern County Water Agency.

His speech took place after a free luncheon and focused on water issues facing Kern County.

"Our biggest challenges are our growing population, government regulation, and litigation," he said, referring to the challenges the water agency has had over the controversial restrictions put in place by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in order to protect an endangered species of fish called the "delta smelt."

The regulations kept billions of gallons of water in the Sacramento River from being diverted to farms and instead returned them to the briny marshes in the San Francisco Bay, the habitat for the delta smelt.

The decision to protect the delta smelt was so controversial among valley farmers that it led to a lawsuit that was recently decided in their favor.

The judge's opinion, as reported in the New York Times, even went so far as to personally attack the scientists working for the Fish and Wildlife Service.

"Courts only look to shortsightedness," McCarthy said.

When talking about the challenges facing the water agency, McCarthy also referred to the late Steve Job's famous saying of "I don't want to hear 'no,' I want solutions," but tempered this statement with a comment

that "no one gets everything."

He outlined the challenges facing the water agency as "the direct result of Delta environmentalism," even going so far as to call for the removal of the scientists working for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

"Getting the best science and making the best decisions does not fall along party lines," he said.

"We cannot ignore the issue of needing water flowing through the Delta."

His speech also emphasized the role of the Tenth Amendment of the Constitution, citing it as a justification for states to be free from federal regulation on the environment.

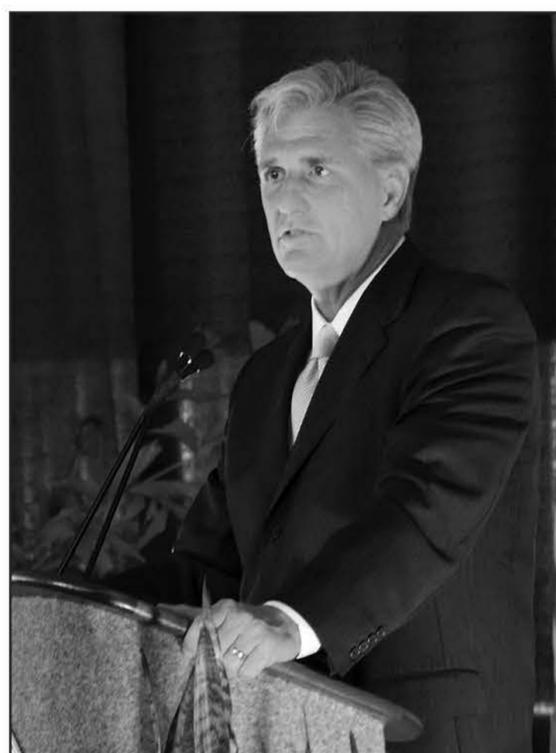
McCarthy concluded his speech by praising the Kern County Water Agency.

"This agency deserves more credit than they get."

After the event, McCarthy emphasized the importance of getting the best science. "Science is the great equalizer," he said, noting the role it has on both legislation and litigation.

McCarthy also felt that conferences such as the Vision 2061 event held by the Kern County Water Agency was the best way to resolve conflicts of interest between local, state, and federal interests concerning water issues.

The Vision 2061 event featured a variety of panels and offered such speakers as Democrat Rep. Jim Costa, Republican Sen. Jean Fuller, and Republican Assemblywoman Shannon Grove, as well as various directors and other officials from the Kern County Water Agency who led panels on water issues facing the Kern County Water Agency currently and in the future.



MARTIN CHANG/THE RIP

Republican House Majority Whip Kevin McCarthy speaks about "government regulation and litigation" at the 50th Anniversary Luncheon of the Kern County Water Agency held in the Bakersfield College cafeteria Oct. 28th.

# Old-fashioned style, new art

By Chrystal Fortt  
Features Editor

The "Traditions" exhibit at Bakersfield College's Wylie and May Louise Jones Gallery is filled with traditional film photography of Virginia and old postcards.

Margaret Nowling is the curator for the gallery and chose the artists for this exhibit because she thought their work was interesting and it was time for the photography media to be shown.

The gallery features two photographers who live in Virginia: Andrew Zimmerman and Michelle Rogers.

"They use traditional wet lab techniques. They're not digital photographs, they are manipulated in the dark room and that sort of thing," said Nowling.

Zimmerman's photography collection portrays landscapes of

Virginia.

"This man Andrew Zimmerman, he takes photos with a large format camera so the negative for the images is the same size as the image," said Nowling.

"He's not enlarging the image at all. It's just directly from the negative and that's not so common anymore," said Nowling.

The size of the camera and photographs allows Zimmerman to really capture great detail in each Virginian landscape.

Like Zimmerman, Rogers also lives in Virginia.

"The woman who we're showing here, Michelle Rogers, is a native of France, but she's a U.S. citizen and she has been now for 20 years," said Nowling.

Rogers approaches her photography differently than Zimmerman and has a little more peculiar project than most photography projects.



ELEONOR SEGURA /THE RIP

Kristopher Stalworth explains the technique utilized by the artist Michelle Rogers to Marilyn Whipkey at the Traditions opening Oct. 20.

"She takes historic postcards that you might buy at an antique store and she combines those with photographs that she's taken," said Nowling.

"And then she manipulates them in the dark room and she does a variety of things to them," she said.

Her photographs have a really antique look to them since they're not completely black and white.

They have a tinge of beige color as if the photographs were

put in an antique photo filter.

Rogers takes the black and white photos and bleaches or tones her photos until they have achieved an antique feel.

"They all look like they go together although her photos could not have been taken back when the photos of the postcards were taken," said Nowling.

The exhibit runs Oct. 20 to Nov. 10 and the gallery is open Monday through Thursdays from 1 to 4 p.m.

# Three-year deal reached

By Jon Nelson  
Reporter

Professors from all disciplines at Bakersfield College met in the Science and Engineering building Oct. 26 to discuss the terms of their new tentative contract.

The contract for July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2014 includes changes to the teaching staff's health care coverage, which was a major point.

"We didn't want to have to pay out-of-pocket for benefits," said Andrea Garrison, who is a professor of biology at BC as well as the chief negotiator for the Community College Association.

Informal meetings to discuss the new contract were also held at other BC satellite campuses.

Garrison led the meeting and explained to staff the language of the agreement and how it would affect pay, the way they are evaluated, and impact class assignment.

A few of the changes made have the possibility of affecting BC students. Over the course of a few semesters, pay for tutors in the Student Center will be cut in half.

"If we can't get people to tutor in the labs for \$30 an hour, then it affects students," said Garrison.

Due to cuts in pay and health

benefits, these changes could also hamper BC's ability to compete in an aggressive marketplace.

"If Bakersfield can't attract people (to teach classes), then it will hurt students," said Garrison.

The new contract is tentative because it still needs to be ratified by the professors. It will then be brought to the trustees for approval.

"We would like to have the vote soon," said Garrison. "I think it'll be ratified."

Negotiations for the new contract began last year, but because of lack of available dates for instructors to meet, the contract went into mediation over the summer.

"Students are top of the list on both sides," said Garrison about the mediation process.

Complicating matters was the fact that the Kern Community College District hired a single outside lawyer to represent them.

"He clearly didn't understand how it would work out," said Garrison.

As with any other contract negotiation, there is the possibility of a strike.

"Better not to go there if we don't have to," said Garrison. "A strike will hurt students."



BRANDON BARRAZA /THE RIP

Bakersfield College students listen to speakers relating their experiences to the novel, "The Other Wes Moore."

# Book reading set to help youth

By Patricia Rocha  
Reporter

This year's One Book, One Bakersfield novel, "The Other Wes Moore" by author Wes Moore, is the subject of a community reading meant to engage readers into actively supporting Bakersfield youth in a life path of success rather than failure.

The community discussions have included parent workshops, dramatic readings and plays based on the main subjects of the novel, which is about two men who share the same name and similar backgrounds, but who ended up in two very different places in life.

Recently, Bakersfield College was host to one such discussion where participants referenced the life choices and experiences they made that led them down paths of selling drugs, becoming gang members, and even being sent to prison for life like in the book.

All the men on the panel were now on more successful life paths and wished to give back to the community by answering questions on how they can prevent youth from following similar paths.

One participant, BC student Manny Ramirez, recalled how he once found himself on a poor life path.

"I remember watching TV shows and movies such as 'American Me' thinking, 'Man, I want that power,'" he said.

He credits wanting to be closer to his father as his reason for selling drugs and wanting to be a part of a gang.

"I thought, maybe if I belonged to the neighborhood my dad is from, I can be close to him, and me and him could start a relationship," said Ramirez.

Others, such as BC student and former gang member Victor Garcia, cited their neighborhoods as a poor setting for impressionable youth.

"I was very high risk. I grew up on the east side of Bakers-

field and I made a commitment years ago that if I ever got a chance, I would come back and help people out," said Garcia.

"If it was east of Union [Avenue], I knew it. If it was west of Union [Avenue], I didn't," said Lyle Martin, Assistant Chief of the Bakersfield Police department. "[Moving] opened my eyes to other things that were out there in the world and the community."

The last discussion in the series is a free Evening with the Author, Wes Moore, with a book signing following, in the Cal State Bakersfield's Student Recreation Center Gym on Nov. 8 at 7 p.m.

# \$5 million given to Bakersfield College

By America Garza  
Reporter

A group of 11 central California community colleges, including Bakersfield College, were recently awarded a \$20 million federal grant through the Trade Adjustment Agreement Community College and Career Training Grant Program.

Five million of the \$20 million grant was given to the Kern Community College District, which includes BC, Porterville College and Cerro Coso College.

According to BC President Greg Chamberlain, the money will be used to help the college improve its career training programs.

"The idea is to get people through all of these processes in a shorter period of time and in greater numbers so that we can get people into the workforce."

The focus of the grant is on improving retention and achievement rates and decreasing time to completion. Chamberlain says

the school can expect an increase of 3,000 graduates over the next three years as a result of the grant.

BC also received the California Education Policy Grant as part of a coalition of six other schools. The \$600,000 grant encourages schools to restructure their policies in ways that help students navigate their community colleges more successfully.

KCCD Chancellor John Means, explained that the grants were awarded through separate agencies, but share a common goal: help community colleges develop innovative programs that will increase student success.

According to Chamberlain, meetings have been planned over the next few months to set about specific long-term plans for the funding.

"We're excited about the opportunities this grant brings. Hopefully it will have a very positive effect over the next few years on our student's success," he said.

# HALLOWEEN SPIRIT IN BAKERSFIELD



Right: Bakersfield College student Jay Garza portrays Jimi Hendrix as he jams out on Halloween on campus.



Left: Captain Jack Sparrow attended classes at Bakersfield College this Halloween.

PHOTOS BY MEGAN LUECKE AND ELEONOR SEGURA / THE RIP

## ART CLUB CREATES MASKS TO RAISE FUNDS



Above: The Bakersfield College Art Club paints faces and masks to help raise funds for their club on Oct. 31.

Right: An art piece made by the BC Art Club for a fundraiser waits to be bought on Oct. 31.

ELEONOR SEGURA / THE RIP



ELEONOR SEGURA / THE RIP

Anthony Castellanoz of the BC Art Club works on a mask he sold for the club's fundraiser on Oct. 31.

## LOCAL ZOO TURNS GHOULISH

By Monica Bolger  
Reporter

The California Living Museum attracted the living and the dead on Oct. 22-23 at its annual event, Boo-at-the-Zoo.

Over 2700 characters were said to have participated in the Halloween festivities according to Zoo Manager, Lana Fame.

Most attendees were children in wardrobe and cosmetics. "It's a kids free day," said Fame.

"We have this every year for the community, and we offer prizes, games, and a chance for children to see the animals in an entertaining and safe way."

Boo-at-the-Zoo featured wild-life presentations, along with a "kiddie" train ride, bounce house, henna tattoo booth, and other Halloween displays that offered candy and treats for children.

"Our main goal of this event is to educate people to respect the wildlife. It's mainly an education process for those who come to visit," said Fame.

Jenna Lapp was one visitor at the scene that brought her children to experience the weekend "fun" and "safety."

"This is the first time I've brought my kids here. I wanted something safe and fun for them to do over the weekend, plus I heard about it



BRANDON BARRAZA / THE RIP

Keeping in the Halloween spirit, a black bear chows down on some pumpkin during Boo at the Zoo at CALM.

from close friends at the church I go to," said Lapp.

Yet, children weren't the only ones enjoying the sweet treats given.

Zoo residents, such as grizzly bears and deer were provided with fresh pumpkin to nibble on and enjoy.

"We have a lot of fun things offered for everyone, and the booths you see are run by various volunteers who actively contribute to our museum," said Fame.

According to Fame, the California Living Museum will continuously offer educational activities for the

community during different times and seasons.

"We are having a special event on Nov. 25 called 'Feast for the Beasts' where we'll be showing how to feed the animals.

"We will accept donations and we hope to receive volunteers. Our

CALM Christmas light display is also a big attraction. We always have that, [which] will also be coming up," said Fame.

Boo-at-the-Zoo will operate next year and will provide safe and "recreational" entertainment for children and their family.

## 'ROCKY' THRILLS, CHILLS AND FULFILLS

By Nate Perez  
Reporter

The Rocky Horror Picture Show, which is hosted by The Velvet Darkness shadow cast, is a movie with a certain twist: you aren't supposed to be quiet during the show. Audience members are allowed to scream and throw items during the right moments of the movie.

The pre-show began at 11:15 p.m. at the Fox Theater with different contests involving participants from the audience.

The first contest consisted of a best costume contest. The winner left with tickets to see Jo Koy.

The second contest involved a group orgasm contest. Two groups competed against each other trying to fake the best orgasm they possibly could.

Then they did it again, one group as a chicken and the other as a monkey. The winners from that then read a silly script in the sexiest voice they possibly could. The audience

booed, cheered, and laughed. Ultimately, a female and male contestant were deemed the winners and were given sex toys as prizes.

Another group of participants competed in a couple's game. One person soaked a tampon into a cup full of Clamato juice and the second person sucked as much juice as possible out of the tampon and spit the juice into a separate cup. The group with the most Clamato juice in their separate cup won more sex prizes.

The last contest consisted of groups of two trying to put a condom on a banana with no hands. One person held a banana, while the other tried to put the condom on with their mouth. The fastest group won even more sex prizes, and one of the males from the group was given a beer bong as a prize.

The movie didn't begin until 12:30 a.m. and by then the audience was already anticipating the event.

Prop bags were sold at the entrance of the theater. They included rice, newspaper, noisemakers, toilet paper, and other small items. All of the items were vital ingredients for audience participation.



NATE PEREZ / THE RIP

Contestants gather for best costume at the Rocky Horror Picture Show.

During a wedding scene, the audience threw rice. When the screen showed rain, The Velvet Darkness volunteers sprayed the audience with water. If you purchased a prop bag, you were able to keep your head dry with newspaper. When bandages were removed off a movie character, the audience was allowed to throw toilet paper everywhere.

At the end of the night I left cold, wet, and with rice in my shoes, but as bad as that

sounds, the Velvet Darkness cast did a good job with the event. It is understandable that they have a cult following.

If you've never attended the Rocky Horror Picture Show, you probably should when they host their next event sometime in February of next year.

Their shows consist of vulgarity, audience participation, and plenty of ridicule, all in the name of fun. Die-hards show up dressed up as actors from the movie.



PHOTOS BY MEGAN LUECKE / THE RIP

Left: The Kern County Fire Department decorate an old fire engine at the Safe Halloween event on Oct. 31. Above: A family arrives fully prepared to trick or treat.

## THEATRE CLUB PARTICIPATES IN SAFE HALLOWEEN

By Patricia Rocha  
Reporter



MEGAN LUECKE / THE RIP

The Bakersfield College Theatre Club participated in the Safe Halloween event on Oct. 31.

Parents and children packed into the Kern County Museum Foundation's annual Safe Halloween to experience trick-or-treating in a well-structured, safe family environment.

The event takes place every year at the Kern County Museum, where over thirty sponsors decorate booths that give out safe candy to children.

Parents found the event to be a nice alternative to traditional trick-or-treating.

"We don't have to worry about if the candy's safe, plus you get to see a lot of kids," said Ashley Pettichord, 26, who has come with her family to the event three times.

She said the friendliness of the atmosphere is what keeps bringing her back year after year.

"It's a safe, family Halloween, and the kids really like it," said Pettichord. "We like that there's more than one night."

This was Liz Southwood's first year bringing her son, but she says it's not her last.

"I brought him to have him see other kids in their costumes," said Southwood. "It's nice, kind of packed, but I would say it's better than regular Halloween."

Not everyone agreed with the night's safe intentions however. Joey Guebayrah said the kids who come out to these types of events don't go regular trick-or-treating, and it ruins the tradition.

"It kills Halloween," he said. Most parents and children, however, actually prefer the easily maneuverable safe-Halloween setup.

"I'd rather go to this than regular trick-or-treating. It's more structured and more safe," said Jason Lephart, who likes the atmosphere and how everything is decorated.

His son Keith Lephart agreed, citing the haunted houses as his favorite. "The barn one is cool," he said.

Bakersfield College's theater club participated in the festivities by passing out candy

as well as performing a three-part kit dressed as Super Mario Bros. characters. President Mithra Arambula said he really enjoyed the event.

"It's something to do for the community that's really fun," Arambula said. "We've done this before and [the turnout] is a lot better than we expected."

This was his second year participating in the event, and said that placing in the awards portion of the night is a nice little added bonus.

"Last year, we won second place and we're hoping to place again this year," he said.

Theater club head writer Robert "Goose" Scott agreed the event was fun not only for the children, but also for all who participate.

"It's been a lot of fun performing, seeing their faces light up," said Scott. "We're in character the whole time, and they appreciate us."

Arambula and Scott agreed they would do the event again next year if they hadn't already planned to transfer.

Other volunteers also enjoyed being able to see children dressed up as their favorite characters, such as Woody, Buzz Lightyear, Pac-Man, and of course, Disney princesses.

"They come here because it's safe," said Jakob Baker, 19, who was volunteering at the Kern County Fire Department booth. "They don't have to worry about what happens in neighborhoods."

"We've done this for the last three years and it's just a fun way to get exposure in the community while doing things for the kids," said Leanne Cave who volunteered at the Service Team of Professionals booth dressed as a cavewoman. "As old as we are, it's also really nice to dress up."



MEGAN LUECKE / THE RIP

Children and adults in costumes enter Safe Halloween at the Kern County Museum on Oct. 31.