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The Renegade Rip

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Former AD Stuebbe dies

By Cassandra McGowan
Reporter

Former Bakersfield College Athletic Director Jan Stuebbe passed away at the age of 62 on Nov. 30 after his battle with cancer.

Stuebbe held the position of BC athletic director for 11 years, and many of the athletic staff are in agreement that Stuebbe was an amazing man who will be missed dearly.

Sandi Taylor, current athletic director for BC, worked with Stuebbe for 13 years as associate director and said that he was a great man with many good qualities.

"He was about doing what was right because it's right, and he was extremely

supportive and positive and willing to help you in any way to be better at what you wanted to do, whatever it was," said Taylor.

Head football coach Jeff Chudy also remembers how supportive Stuebbe was and said that he was a "great mentor" and "passionate about BC."

Long before Stuebbe was appointed athletic director, he played football for BC as a quarterback in the 1969-70 season, where he met his wife.

"He met his wife when he was going to school here, she was a cheerleader and he was quarterback, so it was quite the storybook romance," said Taylor.

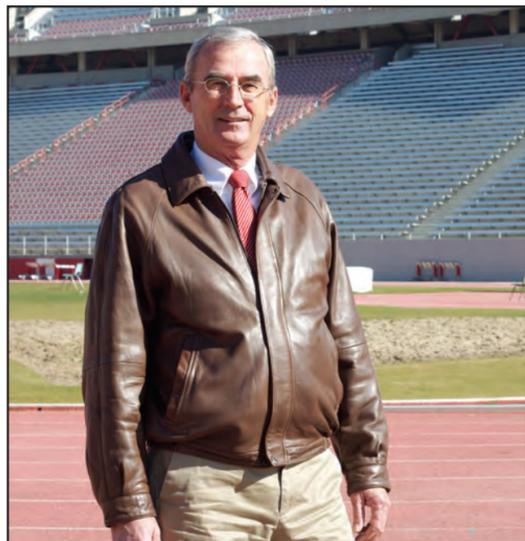
"At that time the firehouse had folks that lived in it so he rented a space from them to live, played football here, met

his wife here, started dating, and got married later, so it's a pretty cool story."

Stuebbe worked many jobs coaching football around Kern County, starting at McFarland High School at the age of 22. He also coached for 16 years at Shafter High School, and helped get the athletic program rolling at Centennial High School, where he worked as athletic director and head varsity football coach for five years before making his way to BC to head the athletic department.

Rich Hughes, BC's men's basketball coach, said Stuebbe hired him nine years ago and that he's always been grateful to him for giving him a chance when others may not have.

Please see **STUEBBE**, Page 5



THE RIP FILE PHOTO

Jan Stuebbe served as athletic director for 11 years.

Finals week looms ever closer

By Myrissa Johns
Reporter

Each semester, as finals approach, students have ranging reactions, from stress to anxiety to failure to excitement. However, students might not realize that they are not the only ones that have to prepare, as instructors do as well.

John Carpenter, Bakersfield College sociology instructor, said that the preparation of a final for the first time can be a very time-consuming process.

"Finals are intended to be an effective gauge of the degree to which the students have acquired the core elements of the course, and they allow the instructor to determine his or her effectiveness," he said.

"As such, the questions asked should be given a great deal of consideration in order to accomplish both goals."

Many instructors feel that it is their responsibility to ensure that students have the knowledge they require to do well in the class, on the finals, and also in their career.

Carpenter explained that finals should be an effort to ensure students have knowledge of the core curriculum for many reasons.

"The students need to take from



BERTIN RODRIGUEZ / THE RIP

Students study on the second floor of the library to prepare for finals, which begin next week.

the class those things that are important for them to know about the topic," he said. "It will be of benefit in future educational endeavors, future employment, and for life in general."

Kathleen Bruce, a BC allied health instructor of medical terminology, said, "It is my job to be sure the mystery of finals is removed."

Although instructors might have varying ways of preparing for finals, Bruce believes that teaching study skills and student development throughout the course is a key way to ensure student success on finals and in the course.

"Finals are a demonstration of learning and not memorization," she said. "If the students have acquired

study skills, and I have covered and taught the material, then the final is just another exam."

She called the final a "test of endurance," saying, "It is built by confidence and 'fighting the fight' through the semester. Students need to acquire study habits, or skills, to endure and fight a good fight, not give up."

Please see **FINALS**, Page 5

For classes meeting **MW, MWF, MTWR, MTWRF, M, or W**

IF YOUR CLASS BEGINS BETWEEN: YOUR FINAL IS ON:

7 am and 7:40 a.m. Mon., Dec 9 from 8-9:50 am

7:50 am and 9:10am Wed., Dec 11 from 8-9:50 am

9:20 am and 10:20 a.m. Mon., Dec 9 from 10-11:50 am

10:30 am and 11:30am Wed., Dec 11 from 10-11:50 am

11:40 am and 12:10am Mon., Dec 9 from noon-1:50 pm

12:50 pm and 1:50 pm Wed., Dec 11 from noon-1:50 pm

2 pm and 3 pm Mon., Dec 9 from 2-3:50 pm

3:10 pm and 3:50 pm Wed., Dec 11 from 2-3:50 pm

4 pm and 4:50 pm Mon., Dec 9 from 4-5:50 pm

5 pm and 6 pm Mon., Dec 9 from 6-7:50 pm

Only on Mon. between

5:30 pm and 6:20 pm Mon., Dec 9 from 6-7:50 pm

Only on Wed. between

5:30 pm and 6:20 pm Wed., Dec 11 from 6-7:50 pm

6:35 pm and 7:45 pm Wed., Dec 11 from 6:30-8:20 pm

Only on Friday anytime Fri., Dec 13 from 8-9:50 am

** Saturday classes will have finals on Saturday Dec. 7.

For classes meeting **TR, T, or R:**

IF YOUR CLASS BEGINS BETWEEN:

7 am and 7:40 am Tues., Dec 10 from 8 to 9:50 am

7:50am and 9:10 am Thurs., Dec 12 from 8-9:50 am

9:20 am and 10:20 am Tues., Dec 10 from 10:00-11:50am

10:30 am and 11:30 am Thurs., Dec 12 from 10-11:50am

11:40 am and 12:10 pm Tues., Dec 10 from noon-1:50 pm

12:50 pm and 1:50 pm Thurs., Dec 12 from noon-1:50 pm

2 pm and 3 pm Tues., Dec 10 from 2-3:50 pm

3:10 pm and 4:50 pm Thurs., Dec 12 from 2-3:50 pm

5 pm and 6:20 pm Tues., Dec 10 from 6-7:50 pm

Only on Tues. between

5:30 pm and 6:20 pm Tues., Dec 10 from 6-7:50 pm

Only on Thurs. between

5:30 pm and 6:20 pm Thurs., Dec 12 from 6-7:50 pm

6:35 pm and 7:45 pm Thurs., Dec 12 from 6:30-8:20 pm

Decision made on SGA officers

By Kennedy Thomas
Reporter

SGA investigations regarding recent alcohol and drug related infractions at a November conference have been concluded, and the verdicts are in.

Bakersfield College Director of Marketing and Public Relations Amber Chiang said, on Dec. 2, that after five interviews of individual SGA executive board members, three executives will be removed from office, one will undergo a censure and be placed on probation, and the remaining officer has been cleared of all charges and allowed to return to office.

Vice President of Student Services Zav Dadabhoj had previously suspended the five executive board officers, along with 11 senators, after complaints of drug and alcohol use at the Student Senate for California Community Colleges General Assembly conference held from Nov. 1-3 on the Monterey Peninsula.

Chiang would not name the specific individuals for whom the sentences were applied, but the five SGA officers involved were President Travis Tillis, Vice President Elizabeth Gonzalez, Treasurer Jimmy Moran, General Counsel Janessa Jennings, and Secretary Erin Robinson.

The other two members of the executive board, Activities Liaison Daniela Miramontes and Legislative Liaison Shelby Sward, were previously cleared of all charges and have been continuing their service in the SGA while the investigation of other members took place.

In addition to the ruling regarding the five SGA executive officers, Chiang said that seven senators, out of the 11 suspended, would be receiving letters stating that they will be removed from office. Chiang did not state the names of the senators.

Chiang said that she does not believe any further action will be taken regarding the SGA and the charges placed against them.

Chiang said that Dadabhoj, Interim Dean of Student Life Don Low, and President of Bakersfield College Sonya Christian were all involved in the investigation and the resulting punishments. She said that normally the school President would not be involved, but that it was felt to be necessary in order to achieve an "equitable" outcome for the SGA members.

Financial aid sees major changes

By Cassandra McGowan
Reporter

Bakersfield College's financial aid department and Kern Schools Federal Credit Union will part ways after their five-year contract comes to an end in December. U.S. Bank will take over the responsibilities of dispersing financial aid payments starting in the spring semester after winning the bidding contract with BC, and students will be receiving new identification cards early in the spring semester according to Primavera Arvizu, director of financial aid, scholarships, and EOP&S.

"All financial aid students will receive a notification via email explaining the process, and then pretty soon there will be some marketing in regard to informing students of how it's going to work, options that they have, the website they need to go to and so forth," said Arvizu.

Students receiving financial aid in the 2014 spring semester will be mailed a check for the first disbursement of that semester because of the small window of time the financial aid office has to switch the disbursement process between banks.

"I think just the timing of everything in regard to getting cards and

the timeframe of setting that up, the first round will be mailed and then after that the card should be received," said Arvizu.

She doesn't expect too many hiccups in the process, and said that as long as financial aid students have met all the requirements and obligations to receive their disbursement, the payment should be in the mailbox at the same time they normally would've gotten the payment directly deposited into their bank account.

"There's not going to be any delay in the process in regard to wherever we're at in awarding, but in regard to

the students receiving their aid, it's just going to be the first time they're going to receive it in the form of a check," said Arvizu.

She said that she's received many questions from students worried about how this transition will affect their payment, and how it will affect their current bank account with KSCFU.

"We are getting concerns from students, which they have every right to be concerned with, because they're wondering 'What's going to happen with my Kern Schools account?' So I made sure I voiced

Please see **FINANCIAL AID**, Page 5



PHOTOS BY SHARIDA REJON / THE RIP

Top: Special guest artist Vinita sings a song off her new mixtape, "Gem and I," to one of the audience members, BC student Edwin Borbon. Right: The Bakersfield LGBTQ community celebrates at the second annual winter formal held by BC's Gay Straight Association on Nov. 22.

GSA winter wonderland

By Myrissa Johns
Reporter

A performance by music artist Vinita was among many activities provided at Bakersfield College's Gay Straight Association's winter formal on Nov. 22.

Griselda Delgado, treasurer and former vice president of GSA, was a key player in the planning of the formal, alongside the president of GSA, Trina Goree.

According to Delgado, the formal was held in order to promote equality among the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning community by allowing it an opportunity to go to a formal that did not restrict the sex of a date.

She explained that LGBTQ students are not allowed to have same-sex dates at high school dances.

Along with the live performance by Vinita, who was available to guests for a "meet and greet," there was also a live DJ, a lip sync contest sponsored by music artist Kwanza Jones, a raffle, dancing, snacks, a free photo booth, and the crowning of a "nongender-specific" king and queen, chosen at random.

Guests of the formal were provided with the option to sign a pledge

to take part in Kwanza Jones' campaign to "Stop Hate." Also, "Stop Hate Swag" was provided, courtesy of Kwanza Jones, as prizes and merchandise available for sale.

"Stop Hate Swag is a part of singer Kwanza Jones' campaign to stop hate around the world," Delgado said. "She provided hats, beanies, and T-shirts for our guests to win or purchase, all thanks to fellow club member Haley Bogue, who got both Kwanza Jones' people and Vinita to come to our formal."

According to Delgado, GSA members Casey Walker and Jessica Shiell were crowned king and queen.

Delgado explained that the club decided to choose its royalty at random in order for every guest to have a chance to win, stating, "We had everyone put their name on a piece of paper and toward the end of the night, we picked names out and whoever was chosen was crowned."

According to Delgado, GSA has a diverse membership, some members being of the LGBTQ community and some "straight supporters." Much like the diversity of the club, Delgado explained that everyone was welcomed to the formal.



BC Archives packed to brim with history

By Kennedy Thomas
Reporter

One hundred years of history are displayed in the Bakersfield College archives, and it's starting to show.

The archives are actively searching for a new home in light of their ever-decreasing shelf space.

The archives office, located in Room 216 on the upper level of the Grace Van Dyke Bird Library, began operation in 2003 and is completely funded through private donations and fundraising operations conducted by archive employees.

They utilize these funds to catalog various BC memorabilia, including vintage school clothing, student publications, and oral interviews with former BC presidents.

All of the items in the archives are voluntarily donated, many by current and former BC staff and alumni. The archive staff is led by Jerry Ludeke, and includes Archive Assistants Rosalee Pogue, Helen Harp, and Greg Goodwin.

Pogue said that the amount of memorabilia has increased to the point that they are actively seeking a larger space in which to move the operation, but so far have not found an available room.

"We would like to display a lot more," she said. "Since we are a part of the library, this is a good place for us to be, but they don't have room. Everybody is searching for room. We've thought of a couple places, but I think they've already been spoken for. They're



PHOTOS BY MJ INGUIITO / THE RIP

Top: BC Archives office, located in Room 216 on the upper level of the Grace Van Dyke Bird Library, began operation in 2003, and is completely funded through private donations and fundraising operations. Bottom: Archive assistant Rosalee Pogue sits at her desk.

trying to find us just something a little larger."

Pogue said that they hoped to get approximately four times the amount of their current space.

In addition to the office in the library, there is a lower-level storeroom, which archive workers refer to as "the morgue," that houses some larger pieces of BC's history, including trophies, plaques, and pictures. Pogue said that the most interesting pieces of memorabilia in

the archives are the presidential boxes.

The boxes contain various documents from the terms of BC presidents, as well as oral histories, in which former school presidents discuss their personal lives and what brought them to BC.

"A lot of the oral histories, probably most of them now, are oral histories that we have from people who are no longer with us," Pogue said. "But we have a part of their history, we have

a part of them here in our files, which is really nice."

Although perhaps not the most interesting item, Pogue said that the "cutest" item in their possession was a freshman "dink," a type of hat that was worn by incoming freshmen to BC between 1951-53.

The archives are open on Monday and Friday by appointment, and Tuesday through Thursday between 8:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.



Corks & Strokes aims to promote local art

By Myrissa Johns
Reporter

Sisters Johanna and Maria Granados, Bakersfield College business majors, and their significant others, Jason Rojas and Ausencio Ortiz, partnered up to open their own local business, Corks & Strokes, in July. They welcome the Bakersfield community to come “paint, drink, and enjoy,” as their slogan says.

Corks & Strokes, located at 2005 Eye St. Suite 7, is an art class that welcomes adults to bring their own beer or wine to drink while they paint, with all supplies necessary provided, with the step-by-step assistance of a local artist.

Jason Rojas, business partner, said that the idea came about by the group brainstorming together. He explained that they knew they wanted to open a business that would bring something to the community that had not been seen here before.

Corks & Strokes offers classes by reservation, combination classes by reservation, and private parties by appointment. There is a calendar on its website, corksandstrokes.com, where people can find out what dates are available for private parties, what paintings are being done on each night, and previous paintings, as well as discover more information about the business itself.

Rojas also emphasized that the class is not just for painters or something that needs to be professional. He wanted to clarify that what they offer is just “an overall good setting” where people can go to have fun.

In each two-hour class, there is a painting that the instructor assists the group of guests with step-by-step coaching. Local artist and Corks & Strokes art instructor Chris Kirschenmann said although it is helpful in the effort to assist, guests do not have to paint the selected



STEVEN LARA / THE RIP

A patron of Corks & Strokes, Amy Pearson, paints a portrait of her one-year-old Great Dane puppy at the evening event.

painting of the night.

Many guests showed their creativity by painting a wide array of things during a class held on Nov. 9. First-time guest and BC adjunct instructor Julie Demos said that she felt it was an awesome opportunity and she would definitely return.

“It beats going to the movies,” Demos said. “I created something; it’s going to be forever.”

Rojas explained that beyond the aforementioned reasons, it is a goal of Corks & Strokes to promote local artists and art culture in the community. For this reason, Corks & Strokes invites local artists to hang their paintings in the facility to promote their artwork. However, they do stipulate that the paintings must be priced at less than \$100 and they would maintain a small percentage

of the sale price if a piece were to sell.

Demos also explained that the promotion of the local art community was one of her favorite aspects of Corks & Strokes. “Bakersfield has a big art culture that we don’t even know about and we need to rediscover it,” she said explaining that “it is our town and we should own it.”

Although the four co-owners are all painters themselves, Rojas explained that they would rather have local artists instruct the classes as a way of promoting that community. Rojas said that despite the fact that they don’t instruct the classes, they are there to help every step of the way for classes and private parties respectively.

Corks & Strokes also offers to



STEVEN LARA / THE RIP

BC instructor Julie Demos paints during a class at BC students Johanna and Maria Granados’ local business, Corks & Strokes.

deliver the same service for private parties to another location, if necessary.

“We only accommodate about 24 people here,” Rojas said, explaining that if a private party wished to accommodate more people they are willing to hold the same class at a venue, or house, of the customer’s choice.

There is a required minimum of 10 people to schedule a private party. However, Corks & Strokes is willing to discount larger groups. “If you have a big group, it’s going to be more of a discount for you,” Rojas said. “It just depends on the group size.”

Rojas explained that the co-owners have noticed that a common misconception among the community is that Corks & Strokes is only

for adults. He mentioned that they do have a combination class for adults and children but it might be more of a “private party thing.”

He said, “If you want a children’s party, just call us and you can pick any date that is not booked already on our calendar, then we just schedule you in.” Although the combination classes and private parties do accommodate children, the consumption of alcohol is not permitted with children present.

For adults, it is \$28 for a two-hour class. However, there is currently a \$5 discount coupon being offered, which expires Dec. 31.

“You don’t have to bring it in, we pass them out, we mention it, it’s on our website,” Rojas explained about the coupon. “Even if you don’t know we have it, we still offer it.”

A Black Friday perspective from the shopping mall trenches



SHARIDA REJON / THE RIP

Black Friday shoppers line up outside of Express, before the store opens its doors, ready to get their hands on the many deals offered inside.

By Cindy Hernandez
Reporter

This time of year is when the mall gets really busy, but the busiest day of them all will remain Black Friday. Black Friday is the day after Thanksgiving, in which people tend to shop for the holiday season. On this day, stores have the best sales of the year and open at ridiculous hours. Hours that I think we should all be sleeping or spending time with our family. As the employee of one of these stores, it is the day we all prepare for.

I work in a clothes store called Express and this year Black Friday was a big deal. The store’s sale actually began on the Tuesday before Black Friday with the biggest sale yet. We were taking fifty percent off every single item in the store until Friday at noon. I had not expected the sale to begin that early in the week and I did not find out until I clocked in for the day.

I did our daily cleaning routine and by the time we opened, we had several customers already browsing the store. It wasn’t a super busy morning.

Last year I opened with the store and arrived about fifteen minutes early. As we were preparing for the opening at midnight, we noticed the crowd behind the gate was getting bigger and bigger. My manager asked me to unravel some tangled necklaces and was counting down the minutes until we opened. Finally, when I finished, our manager said that she was going to open the gate.

The crowd rushed in; some people even ran. The store was so crammed that I couldn’t get through from one room to another to do stock-checks. It took more than five minutes just to get from one

end of the store to the other.

Customers would stop me midway to ask questions about our promo, or about their sizes. I also closed with the store and all I remember are huge piles of clothes, as if someone had just done laundry and it was time to fold all of it.

The entire store was flipped upside down. Not one thing was the way it should be. We didn’t clock off until about 3 a.m. Saturday morning.

Although this year we opened at 10 p.m. on Thanksgiving, I wasn’t scheduled to work until Friday at 1 p.m. As I was getting off of Highway 99 onto Ming, I noticed that Ming was already so busy. I began to feel a little nervous about whether or not I would make it in time for my shift. Thankfully, I made it on time.

When I checked in with my manager she asked me to cashier for someone else who was going on break. From then on, I was pretty much there for the rest of my shift. Normally, in between customers, we process go-backs and pick up a little, or fold some clothes, but there was absolutely no time for that.

We had a nonstop line. She asked me to remember a man with a gray hoodie who indicated the last customer to receive the fifty percent off because he was in line by noon. After him, the sale changed to only forty percent off. Some customers were handed little red passes that gave them an extra two hours to shop the fifty percent off sale. After two hours of cashiering, I took my break and enjoyed great food other employees brought in for the potluck. By the time I came back from my break, we were still just as busy and I remained cashier for the rest of my shift.

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NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

New STEM room a boon

By **Cassandra McGowan**
Reporter

The department of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics received its very own tutoring room last month, and it is expected to help STEM majors be even more successful while at Bakersfield College.

Interim Dean of Instruction for STEM Liz Rozell said that there are more than 3,500 BC students who are currently majoring in one of the fields of STEM and the new, large room in the Math Science building is going to allow STEM students to harness their skills more than before.

"The new STEM area will serve as a classroom for instruction in STEM disciplines, an overflow study area for MESA [Mathematics Engineering Science Achievement] and STEM students to receive tutoring and supplemental instruction, and a collaborative meeting area for STEM faculty," said Rozell.

"It incorporates new interactive projector technology that enhances the learning environment for the type of problem-solving courses in the STEM disciplines."

Travis Burns, a transfer mentor for the STEM department, said his job, along with the other transfer mentors, is to prepare students majoring in STEM to enter the workforce upon completion of college and to help the students really grasp the importance of their classes while in college.

Burns said the money used to pay for the rooms in the MS building to be remodeled was put aside just for STEM, and came from a grant that in his opinion, was money spent in a great way.

"With regard to the new room, the money was very well spent. In the past, the only STEM major with an official study/tutoring center was math, and the room they had was too small with not enough white board space," said Burns.

"Now we have a centralized area where all STEM students can come to get the help they need from people that have a track record of excellence in those fields. The grant money that was spent on the room was earmarked specifically for helping STEM students become successful, and ultimately they will need a place to study as a group in order to do that."



BERTIN RODRIGUEZ / THE RIP

Greg Long points out the problem in their calculations as they try and figure out the answer to the equation on the board. From left to right, Aaron C. Sproul, Jordy Dobbs, and Evan Dark.

STEM and MESA used to have to share a room in the Science Engineering building and the students in STEM did not have access to all the instruments they needed to study correctly.

"If you have ever visited the MESA center, you will be shocked to know that small room serves over 165 students, or should I say tries to serve," said Rozell.

"With over 3,500 students majoring in STEM disciplines (biology, chemistry, computer science, engineering, geology, mathematics, and physics) at Bakersfield College, we

are seeking to provide support services that assist these students in succeeding in challenging academic fields. The new STEM area will provide the space and resources for at least some of our booming STEM student population."

Burns said that the new STEM room is going to allow for students to get together to study, which he said is very helpful in achieving maximum success and that by having their own place for their major-specific studying, it's only going to allow them to be more successful.

"By coming together they can

help each other, and get help from us when they need it. Many people have tried studying in the library, but discussions over how to do complex chemistry formulas and mathematic equations are too loud for that area," said Burns.

"Some people have gone to the MESA center, but that resource is supposed to be limited to students with economic and educational disadvantages as seen by the state. Here [in the new STEM room] we have a place all students in STEM classes can come and get the help and encouragement they need."

Finals: Student opinions differ

By **Nicholas Torres**
Reporter

Finals week is looming and that means students are either prepared or frantically doing last minute assignments.

Several Bakersfield College students gave opinions on whether or not finals are necessary, and offered some tips on how to prepare for them. Finals start on Dec. 7 for students with Saturday classes and on Dec. 9 for all classes.

Student Elizabeth Navarro says she thinks finals should not be given. "I don't think one test should indicate whether you pass a class or not," she said.

Navarro also mentioned that finals might add extra stress to teachers because of the amount of material they have to review and the fact that they have to grade hundreds of exams. "If you do well over course of the semester, then why do you need to prove yourself one more time," she said.

Even though she thinks students shouldn't be given finals, she says she prepares for them by looking at notes and study guides that are given to her.

BC student Anthony Rodriguez disagrees, and thinks that finals are necessary.

"They're good because you get to review a whole semester's worth of work," he said.

Rodriguez says he likes to prepare for finals by listening to all his lectures that he has recorded. "It helps me remember key things that are important," he said.

"If you actually want to pass the class, you should want to take the final, because it will make you succeed in the class," said BC student Breanna Guzman.

In order to prepare for finals,

Guzman says she likes to use handouts and past assignments her teachers have given her.

Priscilla Garcia says the way she gets ready for finals is to just study what the study guide says to. "I don't like to waste more time than I have to, I just study what I need to. I read over class notes and sections that are emphasized more," she said.

"Finals are necessary to improving a grade, but I don't think it helps when we already have an A or a B in the class," she said.

Garcia explained that if the student is doing well in the class, and on the day of the final they don't do well, then the overall grade is lowered. She said the final should not represent the student's knowledge of the material.

BC student Abriel Lopez explained his method for preparing for finals: "I wait until I get the study guide, do it, then wait until the night before to look through it."

"If you don't do your work during the year but do good on the final, you still proved you learned something," he said. Lopez thinks finals are a good way to show the teacher that you retained valuable information.

Claudia Yanez, a BC student, prepares for finals by re-writing the notes she's taken. "It does work, it helps me memorize the important things," she said.

"Finals should be taken depending on the students grade. If you have a C or D then take it, but if you have an A or B then no," she said.

Navarro summed up her feelings about finals by saying: "We don't like them, but what are you going to do? You got to take them."

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



MJ INGUITO / THE RIP

Brazilian students and members of the BC men's tennis team, Henrique Camatu Ambrosia, left, and Vitor Ikeda, right, prepare themselves a plate of food at the International Student's Faculty Appreciation and Scholarship luncheon catered by the BC Renegade Room on Thursday, Nov. 21. Faculty and students were treated to a Thanksgiving lunch by the culinary arts students, and serenaded by international student Poe Oo from Myanmar, during their meal. Many of the International students, such as Ambrosia and Ikeda, were also awarded scholarships to help ease the costs of hefty international student fees they must pay.

BC scholarships a prime opportunity for many kinds of students

By **Myrissa Johns**
Reporter

There are many scholarship opportunities at Bakersfield College, according to Primavera Arvizu, Financial Aid and Extended Opportunity Programs and Services director.

"I think students should always apply, even though they think 'I'm not good enough,' or 'I don't have a chance,'" she said, explaining there are scholarships of different criteria that might cater to students of diverse backgrounds and intellect.

"Sometimes the criteria is very dense and very outlined and sometimes the criteria very general," she said, "So, it depends on the private

donor."

The funding for scholarships is not provided by BC itself, but private donors, foundations and agencies, according to Arvizu. She said that the financial aid office processes applications and filters information, which is sometimes then sent to committees or private donors to then select the recipient for each scholarship.

The eligibility requirements come from the criteria that donors set up for their scholarships. Some might dictate that they want their funds to go to a student with a certain grade point average and aspirations of a certain career goal, while others might specifically want to fund a student that is struggling but still

continues to go to school despite the obstacles, according to Arvizu.

Arvizu explained that she felt that in addition to the scholarship being a resource of funding, it is also important that the student and family are together when the student gets awarded the scholarship.

"For the family to see that student receive something, I think it is great, and joyful, and prideful."

Whether or not to list scholarships as an achievement on certain applications might often be a question that students get. "We always advise students to list scholarships because it's an accomplishment," Arvizu said.

She said that it might be most pertinent to list scholarships when ap-

plying for internships, campus jobs, or four-year schools, for example.

Some scholarships do not get a large number of applicants, like art scholarships, according to Arvizu. "What we do is, we reach out to faculty in that department and we ask them to help us outreach to get students to apply."

The majority of scholarship applications are due by Dec 13, with a few exceptions being due February and March. Students do not have to be a financial aid student to qualify.

This semester the financial aid office has started a new practice in which students receive emails stating that their application has been received and whether or not it is complete.

"I just thought it was appropriate to let the student know, 'Look, we did receive your scholarship,' because we were receiving a lot of phone calls," she said.

"There wasn't any communication from the office back to the student ... So, I thought it would be putting the student first."

The funds awarded to students through scholarships do count as part of their resources for their financial aid eligibility, according to Arvizu.

She used the example of a student with the "unmet need" of \$15,000. If the student receives work study, EOP&S, and a scholarship, then that could max out the ability to receive additional resources.

Repeatability changes will affect students

By Graham C Wheat
Editor-in-Chief

Changes to repeatability are affecting students with the start of the spring 2014 semester. With the exception to a few classes, students may now only take a class once, unless it is to replace unsatisfactory marks.

Director of Admissions and Records Sue Vaughn said that the decision came directly from the state chancellor's office.

"There are classes that are repeatable, and the rules have tightened about which classes those are," said Vaughn.

She elaborated on which classes those are.

"The only classes that can be repeatable as a class are the athletic

team sports, or something like debate." Vaughn said that these classes are performance and competition based and the justification for keeping said classes comes from that aspect.

When questioned if any other programs were under this umbrella Vaughn gave another example.

"Then, in addition to that, the college can make some classes repeatable on the grounds that to transfer, for instance if want to transfer as a music major to a four year school, you have to take a performance class every semester, and usually it is the same class," said Vaughn.

"If you play the cello, the only performance you can do is for the orchestra," said Vaughn posing a hypothetical scenario.

She also added that a class like

theater would fall under the aforementioned umbrella.

Vaughn said that classes most affected by these new regulations would be physical education electives such as tennis or archery

"It used to be that you could take tennis up to three times. For example beginning tennis, intermediate tennis, and advanced tennis. Or someone just taking beginning tennis three times. That is over with," said Vaughn.

The push from the state level to curtail repeatability in some areas comes from students continuously taking courses even though they may have completed them with good marks.

"Over the last seven years they [the state chancellor's office] have been concerned," said Vaughn when

prompted as to why the decision fell the way it did.

"We used to have people taking and withdrawing or taking and failing, up to 10, 12, 15 times," said Vaughn.

"People figured out that was preventing students who hadn't had a chance to take classes from getting in when enrollment got pushed because of the budget."

Vaughn did say that the rules for repeating a class under special circumstances are the same.

"Let's say you have an unsatisfactory grade, the state regulation is that you may repeat a class a maximum of twice, which means you can take it a maximum number of three times," said Vaughn referring to the current requirements for repeating a class when a student must

get permission from a faculty chair.

While she did express some sentiment of regret for older students who would not be able to take a class for personal fulfillment.

Those regrets Vaughn said however, are assuaged by the Levan Institutes programs, her feelings are that this is for the best.

"The big philosophical change is driven by a desire to get students who need us in, achieve their goals, and out.

"Our primary missions are transfer, degrees with job training and certificates, and then basic skills," said Vaughn on her overriding reaction to the changes.

"I think when we are in tough economic times, it is the only fair thing to do," she said with a final word.

GOP produces guide for college students

By Robert Mullen
Reporter

Need help paying for college? Well there's a new resource out there aimed specifically for those with this need in California. Launched by California's Republican assembly members, <http://www.payingforcollegeca.com> is a website designed for getting money into the hands of both current and soon to be California college students.

The site brings together information for getting scholarships from state, federal, and private sources. These include UC and CSU scholarships, Cal grants, Pell grants, and private and federal loans. Links are also provided to the financial aid pages of individual California community colleges.

Information is also provided to help veterans with issues like the

use of the G.I. bill, or sending them to the California department of veteran affairs.

There are even grants for children of military members who died in the wars in Iraq or Afghanistan.

The site also has useful information on avoiding scholarship scams and information on financial aid terms.

"It is a tragedy that the dream of higher education is out of reach for too many young people because they can't afford it," said assembly Republican leader Connie Conway in a press release issued by the republican party.

"Keeping higher education affordable for California's students is an important priority for assembly republicans and that's why we've put together this new online guide..."

Rally held by United Farm Workers



STEVEN LARA / THE RIP

BC student Tanya Bernal holds a sign calling for the reform of immigration at a rally held at the Kern County Superior Courthouse on Nov. 20. This rally was part of a national event.

FINANCIAL AID: Changes coming

Continued from Page 1

the concerns at the meeting to make sure we're on track so students can be properly notified in regard to what's going to happen with the old card, when are they going to get the new card," said Arvizu.

KSFUCU senior vice president of operations and marketing Michael George said that students need not fret as any BC student who currently holds a campus checking or campus savings account will be able to keep those accounts without any changes.

"If you have a campus account, you will get to keep it, the parameters are the same. We're not closing any accounts or anything like that," said George.

He also said that the KSFUCU office located in Campus Center 4 will be closing at the end of this semester, and the KSFUCU ATM located across from the Fireside Room will be taken out as well. Students on financial aid will be able to determine themselves how they want to receive their financial aid payment once they get their new ID cards.

"The students will have options. Once the information starts coming down to financial aid student, because they are the first group that's going to receive the cards, it'll let them know what their options are. So if students want to keep their account with Kern Schools, there will be options to choose from," said Arvizu.

FINALS: Teachers work hard too

Continued from Page 1

Julie Marty-Pearson, a BC adjunct instructor of psychology, said that she does see a change in student effort over the course of a semester. Marty-Pearson explained that during the middle of the semester she sees a drop off in both student effort and attendance.

"As the end of the semester approaches, students start to realize that final grades are approaching, that they need to get caught up on things, and start coming to me more for help on assignments and with general questions about their grades," she said.

Marty-Pearson, Carpenter, and Bruce agreed that the idea of finals is favorable in testing student knowledge of what is defined in the course description. However, they do think that there are different ways of doing this.

Bruce said, "I believe finals should be a demonstration of learning what is necessary to support the description of the class.

"If the quizzes or tests scaffold throughout the class development, then the class is comprehensive the whole semester and the final should test what is the least-practiced information."

Marty-Pearson said she believes that there are a number of ways to assess whether the students have learned the required material, including comprehensive -- an accumulation of all information learned

throughout an entire semester -- or regular exams, presentations, or a research paper.

"All of these assignments are important to the process of teaching and learning for both the student and the professor," she said.

She explained that the method of testing student knowledge could be situational, saying that she doesn't think certain finals should be comprehensive for semester classes like those of BC.

"We have covered so much information over a long period of time that I have formatted my classes to have several exams throughout [the semester] covering each section of material, usually several weeks worth," Marty-Pearson said. She explained that she has found that to be the best method of teaching the course material and assessing student knowledge.

Although instructors might have different ways of assessing student knowledge, among many BC instructors, there might be a consensus that finals are necessary.

Carpenter said that finals should have a focus on the latter portion of the class but should still have a degree of comprehensiveness.

"A comprehensive final allows the instructor to determine how effective he or she was in imparting the course content in a way that actually accounted for an increase in knowledge for the students," he said.

STUEBBE: Former AD dies after battle with cancer

Continued from Page 1

"He was a good person, like I said, he hired me so I was always thankful for him taking a chance to hire me when maybe someone else wouldn't," said Hughes.

"When I got here he was very supportive of me, trying to help us develop the program. He did whatever he could to help us, and it just speaks to the type of person

he was. He wanted to help people succeed. It was never about his own ego, it wasn't about Jan Stuebbe, it was about BC athletics and helping the coaches do the best that they could."

Taylor said Stuebbe had been ill for a long time, but that didn't stop him from still wanting to be there to support his former colleagues in all their endeavors. She said that

Stuebbe was always eager to help and encourage even though he was very sick.

Visitation will be held from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. Dec. 4 at Peter's Funeral Home in Shafter.

A memorial service has been set for 10 a.m. Dec. 5 at Valley Baptist Church. A graveside service will be held at 2:30 p.m. Dec. 5 at Shafter Memorial Park.

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La Verne Ranks #1
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Staff Editorial

SGA plans eclipsed by infractions and disputes

This semester the Student Government Association has rivaled it's big-league counterparts. True to fashion in the way real government acts, all the unpleasant events surrounding SGA have eclipsed the good things they have done. And like so much of our federal government, a bushel of bad apples have soured the few that were good.

While big plans were being made, SGA let petty bickering slow an already slow process with allegations of censure.

Like our own government, when things got bad they spiraled even worse.

The latest transgressions perpetrated by a majority of the SGA are the most egregious to date.

While SGA was attending a leadership conference, to the tune of approximately \$13,000 of student money, numerous members of said association broke alcohol consumption rules. This type of action by a student government cannot simply be chalked up to "college-aged antics." Whatever the circumstances that surround the allegations, these people who willingly place themselves at a higher standard of judgment should have been aware of their actions and faculties at all times. What further compounds this notion is that there are already senators and executive board members who have been cleared of any wrongdoing. There were people who refrained from such activities. For those that decry the people who sat idly by while others broke rules, the true nature of politics was at work there.

The realization that it is only now that a student body would care about what SGA does is not lost, however student apathy to the situation is not the only factor. The people who care about SGA are officials and administrators.

The face of our school, to those who make the most crucial decisions about BC, is SGA. Since this is not the first time that SGA has been caught doing such things at a conference, it only further degrades the image of BC.

It is terrible that the only way to make students shed their apathy is by being embroiled in some controversy. Students will only continue to find SGA important when they are in trouble, instead of focusing on the good ways they spend their money.

In light of all these transgressions by SGA, the school does still continue its daily activities. There is still an SGA, however, it is operating at reduced capacity and function. There will be another SGA next semester as well. To what extent their effectiveness can only be speculated. Hopefully, the next installment will operate under the assumption that even with apathetic students, they are always being watched, students ready to latch onto a hot button issue.

From the minutes posted outside the SGA boardroom, the SGA may have already elected an interim student body president.

So while all of this is taking place, at least we can take solace in the fact that some good apples are attempting to do work for the benefit of the students.

Whatever transpires from all of this fallout, there will soon be a new batch of bright-eyed prospective politicians to watch and write about.

Finals week: Let's review



By Graham C Wheat
Editor-in-Chief

With the end of the semester quickly approaching, student minds tend to gravitate toward one singular purpose.

The looming dread of finals is an omnipresent force that seems to hang like a carrot before a donkey, carting us either to oblivion or redemption.

There can be many scenarios when it comes to the reactions and feelings toward finals that are elicited from students. For most, that carrot is the fear that all the studying and hard work will vanish when it comes to test time. These are usually the overachievers that are passing the class with flying colors, yet such is their process to attaining their goals of straight A's. For many it is usually a time to improve a grade by acing one final exam with diligent studying of material.

Whatever the strategy or focus, one thing is necessary for final examinations. They should all be comprehensive in nature and reflect the bulk of material covered in the course, as opposed to the student loved "last material covered" examination.

To understand why a comprehensive examination is so important we must look at what each type of exam is saying, or at least portraying, about the relevance of the class. The final tests that cover merely the last material reviewed deliver a message of unimportance. After fifteen weeks of proper attendance and diligent note taking, your presumably competent knowledge of the subject is distilled to two and a half weeks of information that may or may not be compelling. The impact of importance is relegated to the final two weeks of information.

Pose a hypothetical situation. A student who attends class and has received good letter grades on all assignments and tests prior to the final unavoidably misses two weeks. While another student who misses class and has been receiving C's on all tests and assignments prior to the final takes meticulous notes the last two weeks.

The A student has his grade drop because of poor performance on the "last material" final, while the C student passes with flying colors raising himself to a B.

This type of testing perpetuates carelessness among students. The idea that sliding by and acing a "last material" final is indicative of real knowledge gained ultimately harms our school. Those students are underprepared for the next level of school.

Comprehensive finals on the other hand are true barometers of knowledge acquired. Pose the same situation with the "A" and "C" student. The only correlation that can be drawn is such: the A student will do well because he has attended class and participated, while the C student will get a grade deserving of their effort.

The amount of knowledge a student gains at the community college level is critical. What we learn here is critical to what we gain at the university level and a "last material" final exam is denying us the most knowledge we could attain. It is only with a true barometer of a student's comprehensive knowledge that we become prepared for the next step.

PRO

CON



By Mayan Lara
Photo Editor

Finals week is arguably the most stressful week of the semester. We study and study for days, maybe even weeks, for a test or tests that may help us or screw us over.

I don't know about you, but most of the time, finals do not help me. They almost always drop my grade a little, which sucks.

It sucks when you are doing OK in a class (notice I said OK and not great) to where you have a good enough grade to pass the class and because you didn't do so well on your final, the final test you take at the very end of the semester after you've mentally checked out, you don't pass the class.

You can sit there and try to argue that you don't mentally check out of class in the last couple weeks that are left of the semester, but you and I both know that you are only lying to yourself.

Mostly everyone starts to check out, or not be as focused, toward the end of the semester.

It's hard to stay focused in a class or subject for 16 weeks. Not only are we expected to stay focused for the whole duration, but we are also required to take the biggest test of the class at the end of those 16 weeks.

Sure it's easy to say that we could try harder in the beginning of the semester, but it's not always that easy.

Sometimes the classes we barely get by in are classes that we aren't that great in, like math. Or sometimes we have other things in our life that might interfere with us doing well in the beginning of the semester to where all we can count on is barely getting by.

How are we supposed to get by if the last chance we have at passing a class is a huge test on the very last day? I don't understand how professors can expect us to do fantastic work on our finals.

I especially don't understand how they expect us to do so well when we might have three to four, and maybe even more depending on how many classes we took, finals to take all in the same week.

We are expected to study the weekend before, which is about two to three days, and be able to retain all this information from different classes and subjects when I can't even remember what I ate for dinner the night before.

Speaking of food, due to finals, most of us don't even eat properly. We, students, end up eating and drinking the most unhealthy stuff they sell out there. Most students buy chips, pop tarts, soda, energy drinks, and countless cups of coffee to help keep themselves awake and energized during study sessions.

If you go on Instagram, Facebook, or any other social network during finals week, most of what you see is people posting pictures of their Starbucks coffee, Monster, or 5-hour energy drink.

Not only does finals week bring stress to many, but it also brings unhealthy eating habits. Therefore, I don't see any good coming out of having to take finals.

I don't believe taking finals should be mandatory. It should be optional.

10th most drunk city? I'll have what he's having

By Robert Mullen
Reporter

As I climbed out of the wreckage of my recently acquired and totaled vehicle and staggered back toward the bar I'd just left, I couldn't help but think of an article I'd read in Men's Health a while back.

To my shock and surprise, Bakersfield is the 10th most drunk city in America, and our dear friends in Fresno were the first.

"It can't be!" I declared as I ordered another round (and then a second and third just to be sure). Especially considering that Boston was ranked as the soberest city in America.

Now, I don't know about you, but proudly being half-Irish where all things liquor are involved, I can't for a minute believe that a city full of O's and Mc's, a city that dyes its rivers green on St. Patrick's Day can beat out Bakersfield on sobriety. It's simply unbelievable, and no amount of malt liquor or whiskey will make it so.

Now I would gladly take to the rooftops naked, wearing nothing but a top hat and a scarf, drunkenly and joyously celebrating, if Bakersfield truly earned that No. 10 spot, but I just don't think it's true. As my granpappy used to say between swigs of the ol' shine, "being called the 10th drunkest

city in America brings no joy if it ain't fairly won!" Now I'm probably paraphrasing a bit here, but that doesn't make it true.

Now, of course, this is just my opinion. I'm missing a lot of stats here of course, unlike Men's Health, which uses most liver disease, most binge drinking, most DUI related deaths, DUI related arrests, and least stringent DUI laws.

Of course as a drunkard I could never figure out that binge drinking is entirely subjective to the binge drinker, or that liver disease effects a disproportionate amount of Hispanics based on genetics.

Of course, the fact that most of the cities up on the list have little

public transportations, and cities like New York and Boston are noted for this feature might sway the DUI statistics, as would the fact that California has one of the harshest DUI laws in the country.

It's also surprising that Forbes even said Boston was one of the five most drunken cities four years ago. But what would Forbes know? Probably just as much as Men's Health, which means I'd call it a wash between the two.

Still, we should take pride in the fact that at least people are looking at Bakersfield now. No such thing as bad publicity right? Right.

Now if you'll excuse me, I've got a bottle calling my name.



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Game Review

SoulCalibur II: A classic returns in HD

By **Graham C Wheat**
Editor-in-Chief

When SoulCalibur II was released 10 years ago it made waves in the video game world that would peak near tsunami status. It was a nearly perfect iteration of all the things that make a fighting game good. Balanced characters, tight responsive controls, and a cast of fighters that had more soul than most role-playing games at the time. Not to mention one of the best-written stories for a fighting in history, period.

That immaculate blend of fun and technique, spent hours brawling next to a friend on the couch, is back with updated graphics and on-line capability, and proves that the ProjectSoul team responsible for the game still has an edge as sharp as the swords they created.

While they did go off track in the subsequent titles after SC II, with cameos from Star Wars characters and Nintendo mainstays like Link, or inflated created characters that totally threw the balance of the game off, to 3 games with a story too ludicrous for Saturday morning television. This rerelease signals a ray of hope in future for the Project-Soul development team.

The fact that a game 10 years



IMAGE FROM GOOGLE

old has controls tighter and more responsive, even with modern directional pads on the current controllers (looking at you Xbox), speaks volumes to how ahead of its

time this game was. The simplicity of the controls work well on new consoles, a refreshing departure from button mashers on games like Marvel vs. Capcom 3, and though

they may be easy to pick up, but hard to really master.

The graphical update has the eclectic cast of characters looking better than ever in full HD. The clash

of weapons and the ensuing sparks flying almost breathes new life into the game, yet it seems the updated graphics do only to complement the already outstanding features of the fighter. Instead of taking the lazy way out and simply “refreshing” things like menus and text, Namco-Bandai completely reworked those elements to make them feel like a real update and not a lazy conversion like so many reboots often do.

The bread and butter to SoulCalibur has always been the multiplayer, whether it be with a group of fighting game enthusiasts at a home or huddled over an arcade machine. With the inclusion of online multiplayer, in a very good matchmaking system, the entire package is finally rounded out. This is the SoulCalibur the fighting game community has desperately needed.

In a market that has become saturated with fighting, and pseudo-fighting games, it is refreshing to see a game that at its core gets it right, and emerge on the stage once more. As we enter the next evolution of gaming, it is hopeful to see such a masterwork re-emerge and retake its place among the pantheon of legendary video games.

★★★★★

Food Feature

Take a chance and Basque in the rewards

By **Robert Mullen**
Reporter

One of the best things about Bakersfield is our food. There aren't many places in America where you get such a huge mix of cuisine. American diners, taco shacks and Mexican restaurants of course; but there's also all manner of Asian restaurants, even Mediterranean and quite a few fantastic Italian joints.

However, what sets us apart from most places is something that is very uniquely ours, and that is Basque food.

Benji's, Noriega's, Narduccis, Wool Growers, the Pyrenees Café, Sandrini's, very few cities can boast this number of fantastic restaurants, and all are a part of the cultural history of Bakersfield.

Problem is, a lot of people here in town and the surrounding satellites don't actually know about these places, or else they've never had the chance to eat at one. If you live in Kern County and you haven't tried Basque, then you really aren't living.

Whether it's a more formal and traditional sit-down evening at Benji's, or the crowded banquet hall feel of Noriega's or Wool Grower's, one thing no good Basque restaurant can do without is atmosphere.

If you're looking for a quiet and romantic evening you won't find it at these places. They're designed to be vibrant, bustling, energetic, and welcoming. Servers are constantly going to and fro with baskets, bowls, and plates of food, and because it's almost always family style, depending on where you sit, you'll be passing over food just as often as you'll eat it. Instead of feeling overwhelmed you'll be drawn in to the atmosphere; heck, you might just strike up a conversation with the strangers sitting around you.

Of course you can't forget about the food. Almost all Basque places serve the same set up, and usually this is all you'll need to stuff yourself silly. Fresh French bread (apply butter), a delicious vegetable soup (which you must mix with the beans and salsa), a salad in a vinaigrette dressing, tomatoes and onions, green beans in butter, French fries, spaghetti, and of course the pickled tongue (try it at least once, I've always felt it tastes a little like roast beef). If that doesn't seem enough to fill you, then grab one of the entrees and feast till Thanksgiving gets jealous. I recommend any lamb dishes, as the Basque are one of the few to perfect the art of cooking it, but beef and pasta won't be lacking either.

Most of these restaurants have a bar, and it's usually worth it to get there early to have a drink or two in the waiting area. These places are usually family owned, and it's interesting to watch old timers (of which there are plenty) strike up conversations about old Bakersfield with each other, the owners, or the bartenders.

As far as recommendations go, to truly enjoy this unique experience I'd say go in a group of at least four, preferably with something to celebrate like a birthday, a promotion, an award, or even just finally getting out that stubborn piece of corn wedged in the molars. Make sure you sit in the banquet rooms if you can, and even if you're stuffed, a rainbow sherbet pallet cleanser helps.

While not all of these restaurants are still owned by Basque families, the history, atmosphere, and of course food, make this a critical part of the unique Bakersfield experience.

Music Reviews

Chris Brown lays it down on free EP

By **Ruben Hill**
Reporter

After several pushbacks from his fifth album “X,” Chris Brown has given his loyal fans an early Christmas present. The singer recently released “X Files,” an EP composed of six songs that did not make the album. The EP is just a little reminder to those who forgot Chris still runs the world pop/R&B music.

Even though we have seen him venture into the rapping game a little bit recently, Chris chose to stick to his roots and drop more R&B sounding songs.

However, he does have one rap verse on the song “War for You.” He gets explicit and shows his versatility as an artist, and the song is sure to catch your ears upon first listen. Chris channels his inner Michael Jackson on the song “Sweet Caroline.” He teams up with hip-hop veteran Busta Rhymes on the

track, trying to re-create the same magic they did on their 2011 smash “Look At Me Now”. It is an up-tempo song about how addicted he has become to the woman in his life.

The one song that is sure to stand out is the bedroom anthem “Fantasy” featuring Ludacris. Although Ludacris has been absent from music for a bit, he has not lost a step.

One thing is for sure: nobody can fast flow on a slow jam better than him. He raps a sensual verse borrowing lines from his classic also called “Fantasy.”

We all know it wouldn't be a Chris Brown project if he didn't have anything for the club scene and he delivers another hit with the song “Main Chick” featuring Kid Ink.

The two recently hooked up on the smash “Show Me.” This is a similar sounding song that is sure to get the party going. The two complement each other well on the track with Chris singing the chorus and ad libs while Kid

Ink goes to work on the verses.

The song “Waiting” has me wondering if he is missing Rihanna or confessing his love for his longtime mistress Karrueche. With lyrics like “Baby, look what you do to me. Girl I go crazy, and you just got me waiting.” Either way, if you are looking for a song to dedicate to the girl that got away, this is definitely the one.

The one miss on the EP for me was “Love 2 Remember.” It is about being in a deep depression after losing the love of his life. It was too slow for me. I never could catch the flow of the song.

The one thing I gained from this EP was Chris Brown must have a lot of good music in the vault if he is releasing songs like this for free. Whenever the album drops, it will be the anthem for breakup season and will renew a lot of broken love.

★★★★☆

Black Flag fails to enter a new era

By **Graham C Wheat**
Editor-in-Chief

It has been nearly 30 years since any new, abrasive sounds have rung out from Black Flag, and, unfortunately, those sounds are best left in the past.

The iconic LA punk rock band has seen many ups and downs, and their newest album “What the...” is no different from the band's checkered history.

This chapter in Black Flag history, however, is truly a marred one.

In August of this year, Gregg Ginn, an original member, began suing former members of the group who reunited under simply “Flag.” What ensued was bickering between former friends and court battles to see who was the rightful heir of the Black Flag moniker and everything that went with it.

While the courts ruled in favor of allowing “Flag,” which contained the majority of remaining members, it seemed like a bad taste was left in Ginn's mouth, perhaps prompting the new blood that appears on the newest album.

While only one of the original members is present, Ginn, with the newest album, a fresh voice is fronting them. Some may know of the prolific southern California skater Mike Vallely from his history as part of the explosion of skating in the '90s, and now the skater turned artist is lending his talents to an iconic name.

While the name is still intact and the newest album certainly sounds somewhat like Black Flag, “What the...” ultimately feels like a revival album, instead of Black Flag in a new era. What traps the album in this nostalgic feel is the recent trouble the band has experienced. Without the original members of the band (like Keith Mor-



IMAGE FROM GOOGLE

ris, Dez Cadena, and Chuck Dukowski) it isn't the same music. Simply put, although Ginn was and is a part of Black Flag, he isn't Black Flag.

The signature guitar sound of old Black Flag is present on every track of “What the...” but after a while you get the feeling that Ginn is simply phoning it in, trying to rehash some bygone punk rock era that can never be recaptured. Not entirely unlistenable, songs like “Blood and Ashes” and “Shut Up” are well-played, and Mike Vallely has a great hardcore punk rock shout to accompany the familiar guitar riffs and rasping solo work.

They feel like any other hardcore punk sound. There isn't that feeling to get up and break a lamp over a politi-

cian's head, the angry call to action that is Black Flag. The reason is because the band is not the meeting of minds that it once was. Aside from a few songs, the album feels wholly uninventive and forced.

If you're aching for angry punk rock, you will find it in “What the...” but remember that it is not the same Black Flag, merely Ginn posing with new members to recapture some type of punk rock revival. To find the essence and feel of Black Flag, head to your local record store or attend a punk rock show. You will feel much more rewarded than living vicariously through Ginn's memories.

★★☆☆☆

BC volleyball comes up short

By Jason Reed
Reporter

With a tough conference championship loss at home to College of the Canyons, Bakersfield College failed to secure homecourt and was forced to play on the road in the opening round of the volleyball playoffs tournament.

BC traveled to El Camino College and was defeated in four sets. BC split the first two sets with El Camino before dropping the final two. BC lost the first set 25-20 and went on to win the second one 25-18.

"I thought it was great," BC head coach Carl Ferreira said when asked about his thoughts on the overall season.

The Renegades went 5-6 in their first 11 games and went on to win 12 of their next 13 before dropping two critical games against Canyons and El Camino. The Renegades finished second in the Western State South Conference with a 10-2 record.

"Anytime you're putting a team together you kind of don't know what the end results are going to look like. You have a plan, you take action on your plan and you

make adjustments as you go," said Ferreira as he continued to talk about the season.

The Renegades went on to lose the third set 25-23 before being officially eliminated in the fourth set with a 25-16 defeat.

"The one thing I will say about this team is that up until the very end they were still willing to learn how they can get better than [they were] the day before."

The playoff loss to El Camino was the second consecutive time the Renegades lost a match 3-1 after sweeping 10 opponents (3-0) in a row.

Sophomore Edithza Urias finished with 11 kills, 10 digs and three aces. Tyler Herring and Alyssa Mathews finished with a combined 21 kills. Mathews also had 23 digs for the Renegades.

"We played really well," Ferreira explained when asked about the game against El Camino.

"The other team played just a little bit better. They [El Camino] played exceptional defense, probably played as good on defense as any team I played in nine years I've been here."

The Renegades finished the season 17-9 overall.

Campbell takes top place for the BC team

By Jason Reed
Reporter

The Bakersfield College women's cross country team ended the season with a 13th place finish at the California Community College State Championships at Woodward Park in Fresno on Nov. 23.

Freshman Jessica Campbell placed 22nd with a personal-best time of 21 minutes 18.65 seconds. She was the Renegades' No. 1 runner in all of their meets this season.

"I think we did really well," said Campbell. "Our hard work showed during our performance."

The Renegades finished with the team time of 1:39:58 and scored 354 points. The race featured 207 runners, and the Renegades had seven placers in the top 148.

Sophomore Orieth Rodriguez took 61st place with 19:49.89; freshman Leah Theroux came in at 72nd with the time of 19:59.72; sophomore Moriah Millwee took 91st with 20:19.70; freshman Amber Cruz came in 108th with 20:34.38; freshman Paola Silvestre came in 125th at 21:04.00, and freshman Esthefani Perez finished 148th in 21:41.23.

Freshman Lara Aceves from East L.A. College took first place in the race with a time of 17:42.08.

Orange Coast won the team title with 73 points

In the men's race, BC's Juan Calderon, the only BC male runner to qualify for the state meet, took 43rd with a time of 21:18.65.

American River College won the men's team title with 72 points. Luis Luna from American River won the men's race in 19:58.21.

Kalivas has confidence in his men to qualify

By Nicholas Torres
Reporter

With the Bakersfield College Wrestling season nearing an end, the team is gearing up for the state championships.

In order to qualify for the state championships, wrestlers must place in the top six of their weight class at the Southern Regionals on Dec. 7.

Coach Bill Kalivas said seven members of the team have a good shot at qualifying for state. Those members are Josh Davis, Jonathan Gomez, Dilan Harroun, Jose Leandro, Arko Petrosyan, Max Ramirez, and Jawayne Fambrough.

"I think they've done well this year. They have been consistent throughout the season," said Kalivas.

If these wrestlers were to make it to state, he said, "It's difficult to see how they would do because it all depends on match-ups, but they have the ability to do well. All we ask is that they do their best."

Kalivas explained that at the beginning of the year the team had a lot of athletes, but for certain reasons they had to be dismissed. "Since the team has gotten smaller, it's difficult to keep consistent continuity," he said.

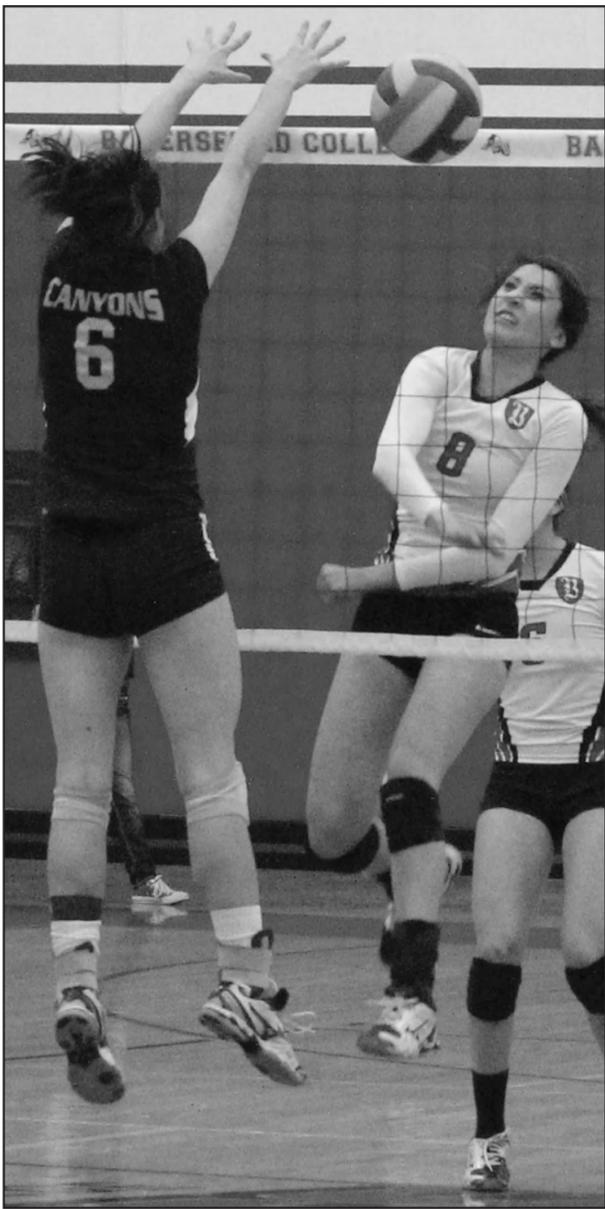
Kalivas mentioned that Fresno City College is the team to watch at state because of its recent success the past few years. Part of the reason they have had good teams is because they don't have to compete with other schools for wrestlers. "For us we have to compete with CSUB for local wrestlers which has caused us to look out of area for wrestlers which I don't like to do," he said. With three or four more wrestlers, he said this year's team could have been better.

The state championship will be held on Dec. 13-14 at Delta College in Stockton.



PHOTOS BY MJ INGUITO AND STEVE LARA / THE RIP

Top: Tyler Herring, a 6-2 freshman, tips the ball over the net in an attempt to get it past the College of Canyons' defense. Bottom Left: BC middle blocker Carmen Enriques breaks through College of the Canyons' middle blocker Sage Hernandez' defensive attempt. Bottom Right: Both teams shake hands under the net after BC loses to College of the Canyons at the final home game of the season. The Renegades finish second place in the Western State South Conference with a 10-2 record.



Women's basketball off to a slow start in '13

By Jason Reed
Reporter

Still trying to find their stride in the early going of the season, the Bakersfield College women's basketball team dropped another game and fell to 1-4 on the season.

BC's latest loss came Nov. 26 against Santa Ana College. BC fell 93-78 to the Dons and they dealt BC its fourth consecutive loss. The Renegades also lost 100-83 to Santa Barbara City College on Nov. 19.

Freshman guard Claesey Tarver scored a season high 22 points to lead the Renegades and added three steals against Santa Ana. Dakota Oliver and Leigha Moland combined for 23 points off the bench to go along with 19 rebounds.

The Renegades, however, shot a lot better from the three-point line, going 6-for-15. BC has shot 20 percent of the season from long distance and 34 percent overall.

Ashley Whisler led Santa Ana with 29 points on 7-for-13 shooting and 11-for-12 at the free-throw line. Jazmine Johnson assisted her with 20 points and 16 rebounds.

Earlier in the season BC head coach Paula Dahl said her team has lots of fundamentals to work on. The team still has a month to patch up the holes before conference play starts.

"We've got to have our kids geared up and ready to go," Dahl said earlier in the season. "We can't have some here one night and others here another night. We have a lot to work on, but we'll get there."

BC's team height is an average of 5-foot-6 inches tall including three six-footers, but is shooting just 34 percent from the field and 52 percent at the free-throw line.

Another reason the Renegades are failing to string together wins are turnovers. BC is averaging 26.4 turnovers per game, including 34 in the game against Santa Ana. BC's turnover and assist ratio is 15.6.

Throughout the first five games of the season, Moland and Tarver have led BC with 11 points per game. BC is averaging 67.4 points per game and has allowed 75.8 through five games.

The Renegades are scheduled to play in the Santa Ana Tournament Dec. 5-7.

Billington looks for a future in ABA

By Jason Reed
Reporter

With the help of the Internet, Tim Billington, a Bakersfield College student, did some searching on Google and found a semipro American Basketball Association team that was having tryouts.

Billington's searching paid off when, earlier this year, he signed with the Orange County Novastars.

"I just did some searching on Google," Billington said when asked how he came across the NovaStars. "They had open tryouts, the coach liked me and now I'm playing for him."

The Novastars are among dozens of teams nationwide that are members of the ABA. The season began last month, and the Novastars have a 5-6 record and are scheduled to play the Fresno



BERTIN RODRIGUEZ / THE RIP

Griffins on Dec. 7.

The ABA, no relation to the ABA of 40 years ago that merged with the NBA in 1976, has been operating since 2000 but has a history of some teams succeeding but many teams folding in that time.

When asked about the competition, Billington said, "It's not that differ-

ent (from college). You can't see it as if someone is above you. At first you get a little nervous, but it eventually goes away."

Billington didn't play basketball for Bakersfield College and said that he didn't feel comfortable playing in BC head coach Rich Hughes's system.

Billington graduated from Bakersfield High and also played basketball for the Drillers.

"My high school coach knew I could play but he didn't think I was mature enough and (he) felt I couldn't do anything," Billington said.

Billington said he was motivated to try the ABA because of the doubt by family, friends and others around him who didn't think he would take the next step in basketball.

"People thought I was working out and training for no reason," he said. "So I had to take action and prove everyone wrong who

didn't think I was going to do anything."

Billington said the ABA is just a step to where he really wants to go.

"I'm trying to go overseas, this is just a step. I have a couple of options to go overseas, but I haven't heard back at the moment."

Billington said he hopes to be overseas before December.

He went on to explain that he had contact with teams in Finland and the Philippines.

Billington said he would be interested in the NBA, but he also understands the degree of difficulty it would take for someone like him to get there because he didn't play any college basketball.

"They're mainly looking at division one players and I didn't get to a D1 school. If you didn't get that far, you basically have a one percent chance of making it, and I would love to be in that one percent," he said.



MAYAN LARA / THE RIP

Guard Lawrence Moore, a 6-3 freshman, goes up for the layup against Walter Orr, left, and Eddie Ramirez, right, from Reedley College.

Men's B-Ball team starts off strong

Rip staff

The Bakersfield College men's basketball team won two out of three games over the past two weeks and holds a 5-2 record going into a road game Dec. 7 at Santa Barbara City College.

The Renegades beat West Hills 70-51 on Nov. 22, and then hosted the Thanksgiving Classic Tournament on Nov. 29-30 – losing to Merritt College 78-54 and beating Reedley 90-74.

Against Reedley, the Renegades shot 52 percent from the floor, totaled nine assists and committed only nine turnovers.

Lawrence Moore had 31 points, four rebounds, four assists, three steals and two blocks for BC. Teammate Corey McDonald-Mitchell scored 16 points, and Van

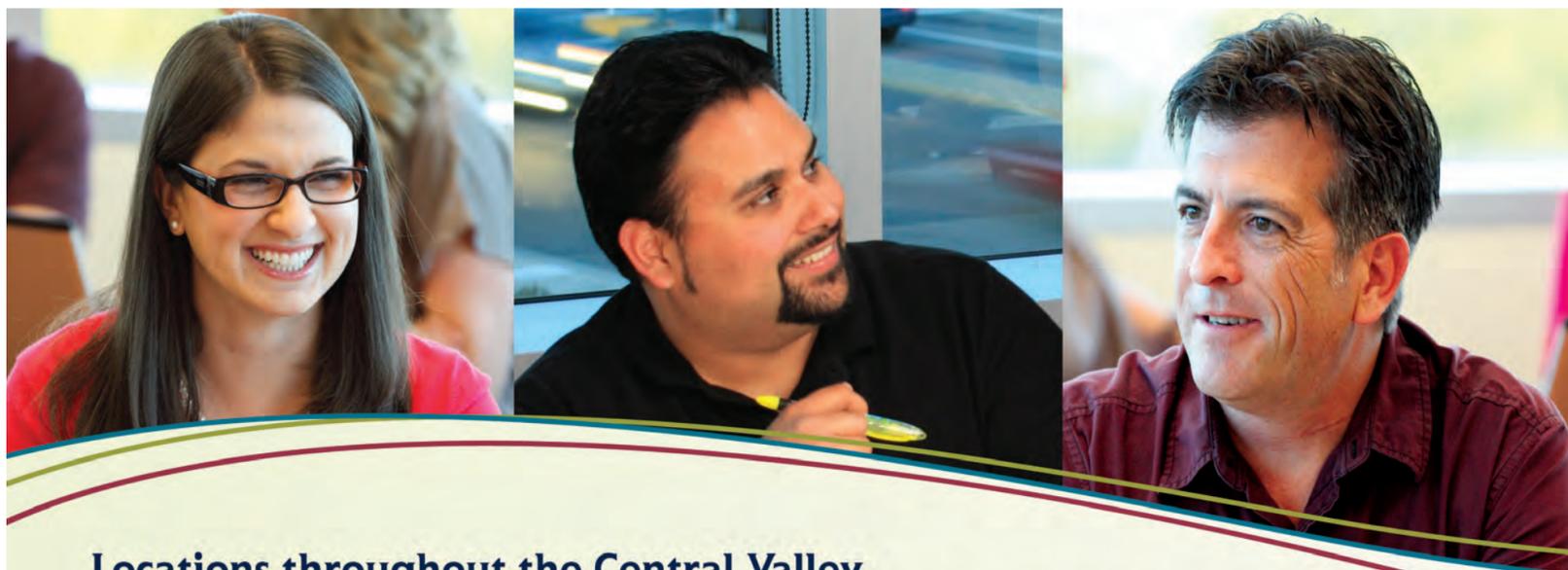
Holloway added 15 points.

Against Merritt, BC had trouble with its shooting, making just 32 percent from the floor. Moore had 12 points and nine rebounds, and Holloway made two three-pointers and scored 10 points.

Against West Hills, Holloway made 4 of 5 three-pointers and scored a team-high 21 points. Moore had 13 points and seven rebounds.

The Renegades will be on the road throughout the rest of December with the Santa Barbara Tournament Dec. 12-14 at Irvine Valley College, a game against Mt. SAC on Dec. 17, and the Allan Hancock Tournament Dec. 28-30 in Santa Maria.

BC plays LA Valley on the road Jan. 8, and then finally returns home for a Jan. 11 game against West LA in Gil Bishop Gymnasium.



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Helping the homeless, one turkey at a time

By Robert Mullen
Reporter

It's a lot like my high school cafeteria. Probably a lot like most cafeterias, or the line through a Panda Express. A metal shelf with servers and eaters on opposite sides, food choices are in metal trays, and you walk through and get your items. Today's main lunch items are either burritos or hot dogs.

So it goes daily at the Bakersfield Homeless Center, which serves breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Between five and 700 people each day come through the kitchen doors: The homeless, the poor, and people living off welfare.

Most of this food comes from private donations, and there's an awful lot of food in stock. Two whole walk-in freezers filled with vegetables, fruits and meats, a pantry full of canned goods and other non perishables, and loaves, buns, and rolls sit in stacks against the wall. In the back there are boxes of heartier produce from farms: potatoes, onions, even some oranges, and maybe a hundred pallets of two-liter bottles of Sierra Mist.

Due to the holiday, there are turkeys beyond counting piled in the back of one freezer, more turkeys than I've ever seen.

The first job I'm given is unloading a truck of donations from Fresh and Easy, which apparently donates daily. Giant plastic garbage bags are full of food and produce, all a day old.

We probably unloaded 1,000 pounds of food in this manner. Then of course there are boxes and bags of more whole turkeys, and even chickens. These things are thawed and expired, and we end up throwing away five or six dozen.

When we sort through the food we end up with three milk crates worth of stuff that's actually fit to serve: Jerky, cookies, bread, a few cartons of fruits, some peppers, green beans, and some (barely) frozen pizzas; the rest we throw away.

While I was there, the staff consisted of myself and half-a-dozen others; the week of Thanksgiving, and the weekend just after, the kitchen was fully staffed. As Christmas approaches, I'm told it will fill up again, too. "Holidays are like that," one of the managers told me.

I'll be going back a few times between now and Christmas. I worked during the slower moments; I can't imagine what it will be like during breakfast and dinner times, when the kitchen is essentially open to the whole public. I wonder how full it will be closer to Christmas, when people have run out of food stamps, or have had to choose between a few presents and food.



MAYAN LARA / THE RIP

Guests from all over Kern County enjoy walking through bubbles that mimic snow when they walk into CALM Zoo.

CALM lights up night



Top Left: Guests of CALM ride on a train that takes them around for a five-minute viewing of different light displays on the outer part of the zoo. Bottom Left: A carousel featured at the entrance/exit of the zoo attracts adults and children of all ages to take one last ride before they leave. Bottom Right: People from all over Bakersfield, and even other parts of the United States, come to CALM to enjoy the many lights covering a majority of the park.

MAYAN LARA / THE RIP



'CHiPs for Kids' spread joy to families

By Cassandra McGowan
Reporter

CHiPs for Kids is back for its fourth annual toy drive in Bakersfield, and the local California Highway Patrol office is ready to make some Christmas magic for the less-fortunate children within Kern County.

Robert Rodriguez, the CHP's public information officer for the Bakersfield office, started this event locally, but CHiPs for Kids is a statewide event that has been taking place for over a decade.

Rodriguez said that the need for donations, of all kinds, is major in Kern County and that his passion to help needy children find happiness during the holidays is what drove him to make this event bigger than it was previous to his arrival.

"Here in Kern County this is our fourth annual CHiPs for Kids," said Rodriguez. "Statewide, it's been going on for over 10 years, but since I've been PIO [Public Information Officer] it's been here because that was one of my desires in my heart. I wanted to do this CHiPs for Kids."

"We had a very small toy drive before where we would just kind of collect maybe 100 toys or so and donate them to the home-

less shelter, but we have an actual CHiPs for Kids program and I just thought, "Well let's do CHiPs for Kids here in Kern County."

He said the last day to donate a new, unwrapped toy is Dec. 16 but the CHP office will accept donations made up to Dec. 20 because the distribution event isn't until Dec. 23.

"Our toy drop-off event is going to take place on Dec. 6 and that's going to be at Motor City. People can just drive in and drop off their toy and that's going to be between 5 a.m. and 6 p.m. It's going to be a huge party in the morning, it's usually a huge party in the morning," said Rodriguez.

Another toy drop-off event will be held on Dec. 12 at the Bakersfield Californian building in downtown Bakersfield from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Donations can also be dropped off at any time to Motor City, the United Way on Stockdale Highway, the Bakersfield Californian building, as well as the CHP office on Buck Owens Boulevard.

Cash or check donations are also welcome and Rodriguez said the officers will use these donations to shop for items to be distributed at the Dec. 23 event.

He points out that the age range they dis-

tribute gifts to is from zero to 16 and asks the community not to leave out the older kids who are also in need.

"A lot of the time those older kids get kind of left out so we want to encourage people to provide different gifts for older children and blankets are an option there, as well as shaving kits, nail products, and whatever other stuff women use [such as] hair products," said Rodriguez. "If you can find a reasonable jewelry set that's definitely an option, or perfume and cologne."

He said that the toy drive has grown significantly since its first year, and he attributes that growth to the generous nature of the Bakersfield and Kern County communities. He also said that the people within these communities see how many families are struggling and the community is always willing to lend a helping hand.

"You know, the Bakersfield community is amazing. On the law enforcement side of it you know you have to go out there and you have to do your job, you have to enforce the law and everything, but when you're on the PR [public relations] side of it and you actually have to work with the community leaders and different communities around Kern County, I mean you really get to experience

just how giving people are here in Kern County. Our first year we had about 1,000 kids and this year we're looking to increase that to close to 5,000 kids, so it has been very very successful," said Rodriguez.

"I know there are several different toy drives, coat drives, canned food drives, you know, whatever is going on and you just put the word out and they're there. People just show up to help because the need is so great, it's just so great all over Kern County. I can only speak for our county because we live here and you see it when you're out on patrol."

He said that the CHP is just happy that they are able to alleviate some of the burden for families during the holidays.

He said that his favorite part about CHiPs for Kids is seeing the massive smiles plastered across the faces of the receiving child or teen and the hugs the officers receive in return for their gift.

"There are a lot of kids that have needs and maybe that might be their only Christmas so we want to be able to help them out as much as we can, and that's probably it right there for me, getting the hugs and seeing the looks on the kids' faces when they walk out with their toy," said Rodriguez.