

The Renegade Rip

BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE

Vol. 86 • No. 6

www.therip.com

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

BC campus holds Vet Fest for second year

By Alisia Sanchez
Photographer

The Bakersfield College Veterans Club showed support for its veteran students at this year's second annual Vet Fest, held on campus Nov. 6.

The event took place in the open grass area between the Grace Van Dyke Bird Library and Student Services building, and consisted of vendors whose collaborative goal was to assist veteran students and their family members, as well as those who support veterans.

Spotlight

The community also honored Veterans at the Bakersfield City's annual Veterans Day Parade. See page 12

"We're trying to let the Bakersfield College community know that we're part of the general community, and that we're in the classes," said Veterans Services Educational Adviser Tina Mendoza. "We're also here to be part of the BC

family, so, if possible, [the event is] not solely for veterans, but it's for people that support veterans."

Last year, the event was put together by Veterans Club President Wesley Barrientos and Interim Associate Dean Paul Beckworth. Mendoza said that due to the fact that last year's event was put together a month before its date, it was a little disorganized. This year, however, the event was put together four months before by Barrientos, Beckworth, Mendoza, and Counseling Office Supervisor Bernadette Martinez. A team effort contributed to this year's organization, Mendoza said.

"The turnout's great," Mendoza said. "From my understanding, we've doubled our vendors from last year, and we've had less disorganization ... Last year was the first time, so this was the second year, and we've learned from our mistakes, and it's way better."

Some of the vendors in attendance were the Employment De-

Please see VET FEST, Page 6



ALISIA SANCHEZ / THE RIP

Veteran Wesley Barrientos is the president of the Bakersfield College Veterans Club, and helped start and organize last year's first annual Vet Fest, continuing his participation in this year's event.



ELIAS C. AHUMADA / THE RIP

BC defensive backs Patrick Marzett (4) and Khalil Ealy (2) tackle the Ventura running back Chris Beeson (25) for a loss.

BC wins, hosts bowl

Renegades stun Ventura, face Chaffey in bowl game

By Daniel Ojeda
Sports Editor

Despite a less than stellar start of the season, the Bakersfield College football team finished the regular season on a five-game winning streak, securing a bowl game at Memorial Stadium on Nov. 22 and finishing with a 6-4 record.

The Renegades' defense, which had trouble finding its footing earlier this season, came up big in BC's last two games.

Against Pasadena City College on Nov. 8, the Renegades' defense held Pasadena to only three points, while sacking the quarterback four times and recovering two fumbles as the Renegades controlled the entire game to win 28-3.

The win gave BC a winning record for the first time this season, and set up a showdown with division leader Ventura College on Nov. 15, with a bowl game at stake.

From the onset of the game against Ventura, tensions were high, as players from both teams had a shoving match early in the



ELIAS C. AHUMADA / THE RIP

The Renegades' defense celebrates after sacking the quarterback, sealing a victory for BC.

first quarter that led to a Pasadena player being ejected. The Renegades' home crowd also got into the game as they exchanged "We are BC" chants with "We are VC" chants by the Ventura fans that made the trek to Bakersfield.

On the field, the BC defense was able to come up with enough stops when the Renegades needed them, while Triton Douglas carried the offense, rushing for 124 yards and two touchdowns as BC won a nail biter by the score of 25-19.

With the victory still in doubt and with Ventura driving late in the fourth quarter, BC defensive

tackle Dominique Banks broke through the Ventura offensive line to sack the Pasadena quarterback on fourth down, forcing Ventura to turn the ball over to seal the win for BC.

"The center was small. I came off the block and pushed him back about four yards," Banks said.

Before the sack sealed the win, Ventura was facing a fourth and 18 and was about to punt, but a high snap and pressure from the Renegades' defense forced the Ventura punter to scramble, and, miraculously, he was able to run for 24 yards to pick up the first down.

Despite the blunder, the defense never panicked and forced a turnover on downs.

"We did what we needed to do to get it done at the end. No one panicked. It's a tribute to the players and our coaching staff," said head football coach Jeff Chudy.

Ventura was able to reach the red zone six times, but the BC defense held the offense to only one touchdown and four field goals, the last of which put Ventura up 19-17 with 10:40 remaining in the fourth quarter.

Starting at its own 25-yard line, the BC offense drove right down Please see FOOTBALL, Page 10

New campaign aims to help students stay above the influence

By Phillip Rodriguez
Reporter

Multicolored strips of paper decorate multiple walls in the Language Arts Building of Bakersfield College. Each strip bears the statement "I am (above)" with a variety of words on each paper.

The strips of paper are part of a project that was introduced by the Above the Influence Campaign, a national organization created to raise awareness of negative influences through community involvement and local efforts.

The Department of Mental Health and the Kern Stop Meth Now Coalition are having students work with these organizations. Dori Gutierrez and Breanna Preston, two Human Services majors at Bakersfield College, are students participating in the project and spoke positively about it.

"It opens peoples' eyes to what influences are out there. It's all around students," Gutierrez said.

Gutierrez and Preston have been walking across campus for several days during school hours, asking students if they would fill out the colored slips of paper, describing what each student feels they are "above."

Gutierrez said that she believes the campaign will have an overall positive effect, as she has noticed many people stopping to read the papers that are posted on the walls on the second floor of the Language Arts Building.

"I think overall and in the long run, it will make them aware of things they didn't know could be a negative influence," said Gutierrez. Preston agreed, saying that the papers will help "make [students] see the consequences, too."

The strips aren't limited to drugs and alcohol, as Gutierrez stated. The strips name things such as GMOs, closed-source networking and suicide.

You can contribute what you feel you are "above" on the Kern Stop Meth Now Facebook page, as well as find other information involving the group.



ALISIA SANCHEZ / THE RIP

Colorful slips for the Above the Influence Campaign, displayed in the Language Arts Building, promote substance abuse awareness.

Gang activity peaks in Delano community

By Elias C. Ahumada
Opinions Editor

"Stop the violence, stop the violence, don't they see who they are hurting?" said Maria Juana Gonzalez-Pena, 49, who's son, Alberto Juan Gonzalez, 19, was found dead in a triple homicide in Delano on Oct. 25.

Homicides aren't the only crimes that some residents in the area have been exposed to. Some residents have experienced home invasions, car thefts, and rape.

In recent years, Delano has become a hot spot for gang activity. Mark DeRosia, Chief of Police, said, "I think that many parents today find it easy to pawn their kids off on the schools, and say, 'You're responsible to keep my kid out of trouble.' They perhaps expect the police to provide things for them to do, expect the government to do that, instead of stepping up to the plate, and saying, 'It's important for me to know where my kid is, where they're at and who they are with, and what they are doing.'"

DeRosia believes that parents play a major role in helping prevent many of the crimes committed by teens in the city. However, he also believes that

schools and local government can help fill in some voids, but ultimately it is the parents' responsibility.

"If there is nothing out there for them to do, they will find things to do," DeRosia said. He believes that many parents feel that the police department is mainly responsible for allowing crime to happen in the city, but that is not true at all.

Compared to stats from last year, auto theft has gone down 12 percent, with 373 thefts in 2013. As of October, 325 auto thefts have been reported this year, according to DeRosia.

Other crimes that are down from last year include robberies, burglaries, and theft.

Assault crimes have increased 4.1 percent compared from last year and rape crimes have gone up 300 percent.

However, some residents are most worried about homicides. Surprisingly, homicides have increased 80 percent.

A total of five homicides were reported in 2013, and there have been nine this year so far.

"I will say that I believe that most of these are gang related," said DeRosia, in reference to some of the most recent homicides that have happened in the city of Delano.

"We had three of those homicide cases that appear not to be gang related in the past 18 months."

The homicides DeRosia mentioned involved John Holguin Espinoza, 88, a local barber, who was found in a canal inside of his own trunk September of 2013.

Erika Padron Lango, 26, from Delano, was also found in a canal after she was reported missing for about two months.

Cody Harris, 20, was shot and killed at Kalibo Park in Delano, Nov. 18, 2013.

DeRosia said that although the victim did not appear to be a member of a gang, the shooting had signs of gang-related activity.

Another crime that has some residents worried is home invasions.

Yasmin Navarro, 23, of Delano, and her family were victims of a home invasion May 7, 2014.

"It was about 1 a.m., and my sister works nights, so what happened was, my mom got up and she thought it was my sister getting home from work. When she went to open the door I guess they rushed her," said Navarro.

Navarro said she heard voices she did not recognize, and that's when she realized that someone else was inside her house.

"They pointed the gun at me and they told me to come, and [the gunmen] directed us toward my mom's room."

Navarro said that there were a total of three burglars and they all had ski masks. The crime went on for about two hours.

"I had found some pictures on my cell phone that were uploaded from my iCloud... but I think when I was trying to explain to the detective, he didn't understand, but there were pictures of guns and stuff like that on my phone," Navarro noted.

The burglars took Navarro's phone on the night of the crime and she believes the criminals used her phone to take photos of guns and a pink slip belonging to a vehicle.

Navarro was able to access these photos through her iCloud account, which can be accessed through any device via email login.

Navarro, who works at a bank, said that due to the event, she now has a fear of strangers that come in to her work.

The Delano Police Department is asking the community to work together in the war against gang violence, and encourages anyone that has any information about the recent homicides to help them solve these cases.

Bomb threat sends BC students home



Bakersfield College students leave the Panorama campus after the Bakersfield Police Department received an anonymous phone call about a possible bomb threat to the BC campus at 3:53 p.m. on Nov. 12. In addition to alerts via email, landlines and mobile devices, campus security officers drove around the school, including normally heavily populated areas, to inform bystanders to immediately evacuate the campus for their own safety. Students in need of rides home were forced to wait while a line of cars took turns picking them up. The college was evacuated for over an hour and a half while buildings were being searched by authorized personnel. Classes also remained out of session until 5:29 p.m., when students were sent another alert stating the campus had been swept to an "exhaustive" extent. The email also stated that no threat had been detected and that classes would be resuming that evening at 6 p.m.

PHOTOS BY ELIZABETH FERNANDEZ / THE RIP



News Briefs

CARE/CalWORKS "Adopt a Family" for our Holiday Tree located in the EOP&S office is accepting presents until Dec. 5 for underprivileged children.

Bakersfield College has changed its parking permit system. To order your Spring 2015 parking permit, visit www.permitsales.net/BAKCOLLEGE.

New parking permits are required each semester for student parking lots. To acquire the permit, you will need your student ID, vehicle make/model/year and license plate number.

Bakersfield College Drumline Night at Bakersfield Christmas Town will be held 5-10 p.m. Dec. 9 at Sam Lynn Ballpark. General admission is \$15 and \$12 for ages 3-9 and senior citizens.

"Strong Starts & Fine Finishes: The Bare Bones of Outlines, Introductions, and Conclusions" is a workshop which focuses on teaching students how to create and organize an outline, and will also give you tips on how to be more effective in your writing. This workshop will be held in the Writing Center, SS-133 at 3 p.m. Nov. 20.

"Keep it Chill, Keep it Smooth: Effective Synthesis and Transitions" workshop that emphasizes critical skills of sourcing and transitions will be held in the Writing Center, SS-133 at 3 p.m. Nov. 24.

There was a bomb threat on campus on Nov. 12 that led to an evacuation that lasted until the whole school was checked, and 6 p.m. classes were still held.

The CAS Workshops "Stay Involved" will be held in the Collins Conference Center at 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and "Preventing Plagiarism" from 1 to 2 p.m. on Nov. 19 in room L-147. These workshops address the relevant matters of writing, memory, preventing plagiarism and being focused in college courses.

The Mentalist "MindSurfin" will be held 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. on Nov. 19 in the cafeteria in the Campus Center. This show will consist of mind tricks, abilities and lots of duct tape.

District attorney visits Bakersfield College campus

By Phillip Rodriguez
Reporter

Kern County District Attorney Lisa Green spoke before Professor Randy Beeman's History of California class Nov. 5.

Beeman's class, which has been learning about the history and origins of many gangs in California, were given a description of the Kern County DA's office, as well as Green's own personal history. A native of Buffalo, New York, Green entered law school and became a prosecutor after pursuing a career in law enforcement.

After talking to the class about her career, Green spoke about Proposition 47. According to Green,

the proposition would officially reclassify felonies that are non-violent to misdemeanors, including drug and theft related crimes that involve property that is worth less than \$950.

"I'm very sad about it," Green said of the proposition, which was passed by California voters Nov. 4. "There are many provisions about it that I think are very bad."

Green explained that though many low level offenders are being released from prison already because of overcrowding, Proposition 47 will also release convicts with violent or more heinous prior convictions simply because their commitment offenses (the conviction for which they are being incarcerated or tried for) are being lowered to mis-

demeanors. "It's very clear to me...that very dangerous people with dangerous priors will be getting out of prison," she said.

After answering questions posed by students in the class, Deputy District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer, who accompanied Green to the classroom, touched on the subject of gang prosecutions. A 30-year veteran of the District Attorney's office, Zimmer is the supervisor of gang prosecutions in Kern, and said that there is a distinction between crimes and gang-related crimes.

"[A gang] is defined by statute as a group of three or more persons, having a common sign or symbol, having its common activity being felonious conduct," Zimmer said.

Zimmer estimated that there are around 3,000 gang members from Delano to Lamont, clarifying that the most active gang members are in Bakersfield itself. She also stated that most gangs are "neighborhood and ethnically based," although she then said that gang members can originate from any ethnic background.

After a student asked why she believed that drive-by shootings haven't appeared in the news as often as in previous years, Zimmer said that many gangs have alternated to "walk-up" murders. Her reasoning for this change being that drive-by shootings run the risk of killing innocent civilians, which increase the police action and prosecution of the gangs and their members.

Former BC student jams in Los Angeles

By Elizabeth Castillo
Reporter

Breanna Fields, a former Bakersfield College student, continues to follow her rock 'n' roll dreams as the bassist for the Hollywood-based band, Glam Skanks.

Fields, 22, grew up in Bakersfield and always had the itch to play in bands. She remembers attending live shows in the dives of Bakersfield as a teenager and hoped to one day be able to play on stage, too.

"The music industry was where I wanted to be all along," she said. "I always dreamed of being able to do music and be in a rock 'n' roll band."

Now Fields gets to follow that dream as she performs regularly as a band member of Glam Skanks, a rock quartet with an all-female line-up.

The band is inspired by '70s rock 'n' roll acts, along with other female rock musicians like Joan Jett and The Donnas.

Although Fields primarily played guitar before joining, she enjoyed learning bass for the band and is ultimately excited to play on stage.

"I had to learn a few new things since the bass works primarily with the drummer," she said. "But once I'm on stage it doesn't matter that I'm playing bass and not guitar. I'm really stoked to be a part of this band."

Fields said that she was glad to find a band that had similar musical influences and were very theatrical performers. Their music

is currently gaining notoriety in Los Angeles. Fields said that the band's music will be featured in an upcoming Kevin Smith movie, "Yoga Hosers." She said that after hearing the Glam Skanks, Smith was excited to feature them in his film.

The band hopes to have their music available online in the near future, but currently only share their music live.

When the Glam Skanks perform, their set usually consists of 12 original songs and two covers.

Glam Skanks just finished two short tours through California and stopped in Bakersfield on Oct. 17 to perform at B Ryder's. Fields so far enjoys the touring experience and can't wait to hit the road once more.

"You get to meet so many new people on tour," she said. "As musicians, a lot of us have the mentality to go and see different things and new people. It's fun being in a new town and playing rock 'n' roll shows."

Along with touring, Fields enjoys other aspects as a band member of Glam Skanks. She said that she enjoys working with them as a team to create new songs and perform their material. Performing live with the band has provided Fields with great memories.

"We always put in 110 percent when we perform in a show," she said. "It's magic when we can all really feel a cool moment with the crowd and feed off of their high-energy."

Glam Skanks have a few mu-



COURTESY OF BREANNA FIELDS

Former Bakersfield College student Breanna Fields currently plays bass in the Hollywood band Glam Skanks.

sic videos of their original songs on their website.

Fields said that they hope to add two new videos including a video of their song, "Wild Soul."

When Fields moved to Los Angeles, she didn't know anybody and had to start her life over.

Now Fields has lived in the L.A. area for several years and said that she enjoys meeting like-minded people who share her interests of the vegan lifestyle, animal rights and the love of music.

Although Fields still has to maintain a part-time job to lead her musical lifestyle, she said that she was glad she made the decision to move to L.A. and follow her dreams.

"It's been a really great experience," she said. "My schedule is hectic with rehearsal, shows and touring, but it's what I wanted to pursue and it's shaping up nicely."



COURTESY OF BREANNA FIELDS

From left to right, Lindsay Martin (drums), Veronica Witkin (guitar), Ali Torres (vocals) and Breanna Fields (bass) of Glam Skanks take a bow after a live performance.



VANESSA A. MUNOZ / THE RIP

Fox Theater held the second annual Out of The Box Film Festival. Created by Joey Travolta, the festival helps those with disabilities.

Out of the Box Bakersfield Film Festival held to benefit those with disabilities

By Vanessa A. Munoz
Photographer

Fox Theater lit up the night sky Nov. 7 through 9 as Bakersfield had its second annual Out of the Box Film Festival.

This festival commends and brings awareness to those with disabilities, and not just in the films shown but with the filmmakers and producers who show their filmmaking skills as well.

Over 52 clips from short movies, long documentaries, and photograph stories that inspired, uplifted, encouraged, and moved the audience.

Out of the Box Film Festival is one of two film awards that display and recognize those with disabilities, which was created in memory of Jett Travolta -- the autistic son of actor John Travolta -- whose uncle Joey Travolta helped create Out of the Box Film Festival.

Joey Travolta has long been involved with children who have special needs, creating a film school called Inclusion Films.

This school gives students with any kind of special needs a chance to create films and photos.

Many Inclusion Film students stood outside the Fox Theater with their cameras taking pictures and recording actors and producers as they walked the red carpet at the Film Festival.

Most of the students had media tags around their neck with another tag

that said their name and what disability each one had. Along with Travolta, Rick Davis is a producer of The Film Festival, with more than 40 years of experience in the music and producing industry.

Davis and Travolta are hoping to have created a long lasting benefit to those with disabilities by offering a chance to have their creative work acknowledged and awarded.

Some benefits of the Film Festival were the experienced movie and music personnel who love to share their connections, experience, and knowledge of their profession.

Guest speakers and judges of the festival varied from studio presidents, actors, writers, musicians, and artists.

The keynote speaker on opening night was Mike Davis, senior VP of Universal Studios in Osaka, Japan.

Davis is actually a Bakersfield native who first got into the film industry at a young age by performing with his brother Rick Davis at the Fox Theater.

He expressed his admiration of movies and film by talking about the magic of movies and how they can affect people in their everyday life.

"Movies inspire people to take action," Davis said. "From 90 minutes to maybe two hours, you can walk out of here, inspired to make a change in your life, a change in others, and that's a powerful, powerful thing for the emotional connections that movies do provide for us."

With many, many movies to choose from, the judges gave the Jett Travolta Vision award to "Go Far -- The Christopher Rush Story" as the winner in the disability tracks of the film selections.

The film was about a boy diagnosed with muscular dystrophy whose doctors said he would not live past 2 years old.

He lived to the age of 30 and accomplished many goals, such as starting the "Go Far" motivation program.

The best in show award went to "Billy Mize and The Bakersfield Sound," which is a non-cash award.

This documentary was about one of Bakersfield's legendary country musicians who paved the way for country music artists in the West Coast, but was stopped in pursuit of his career due to severe heart and respiratory problems.

With three awards going toward the Veterans track, six awards for the Independent track, five awards to the Spiritual track, and six awards to the Development Disabilities track, there were 22 awards given out.

All those who helped bring the Film Festival event to life are hoping to keep this event going each year in hopes of bringing in more awareness and recognition to those with special needs.

All proceeds and donations collected from the Film Festival go toward funding special needs students who attend Inclusion Films BFF School.

Local indie band remedies hate with show-packing music

By Brooke Howard
Reporter

A band made up of two current students and one alumni of Bakersfield College is catching a lot of local attention, and not just for their unique name.

The band Hate Drugs has packed downtown buildings and churches alike, and have a big show coming up at The Summit Coffee House at 6:30 p.m. on Nov. 21.

David Caploe, who plays lead vocals and guitar, talked about the creation of the band and said, "I came

back from Hawaii last winter and got a job working at Northside Church doing worship, so I had to put a team together."

All of the band members had one thing in common: their love for Indie music. Not long after they started practicing for the church, they were writing their own songs in the indie genre.

Caploe recalled the first time they stayed after practice to play their own music.

"We jammed once and we were like, 'Yeah, this is it,'" he said.

"The name Hate Drugs was at first

referred to as a joke," Caploe continued. "I wrote it on my shoe and wore it to a band practice and they asked 'Hey, what's that?' 'The new band name,' I said ... and it just kind of stuck."

When asked what the meaning of the band name meant to him, Caploe said, "Hate Drugs can mean whatever you perceive it as. You can take it as the meaning is love. Love is the drug [remedy] for hate."

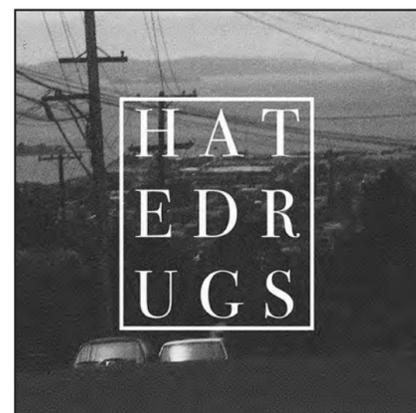
Caploe also writes the lyrics and does the graphic design for the band, which both can be found at the bands website www.hatedrugs.bandcamp.com.

Other members of the band include Josiah Caploe (keyboard), Norman Lee (guitar), Josh Irwin (bass) and Adrian Diaz (drums).

You can see pictures and a little bio of each member on their Instagram profile @hatedrugsmusic.

"I have a lot of people tell me they listen to our music while doing homework and to just chill-out," David Caploe said.

To check out Hate Drugs, visit www.soundcloud.com/hate-drugs or visit their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/HATEDRUGSMUSIC.



COURTESY OF DAVID CAPLOE

David Caploe created their album cover.

Students celebrate culture at BC

By Trina Goree
Reporter

The International Student Affairs department, headed by Counselor and Coordinator Shohreh Rahman, and the International Student Organization celebrate International Education Week, or IEW, on Nov. 17-20.

On Nov. 20, BC students from around the globe will present, "Around the World in 40 Minutes!"

The event will be held at 12:15 p.m. in the Simonsen Performing Arts Center, and the presentation will conclude at 12:55. It is open to all students, faculty and staff. No general admission is required for the IEW theater performance. Also, ISA and ISO have coordinated free food and an opportunity to visit among one another outside the theater after the presentation concludes.

"International Education Week is an annual event, which celebrates the benefits of international education and exchange and is a joint initiative of the U.S. Department of State and U.S. Department of Education," Rahman said.

Rahman also would like students to know that the goal of International Education Week is to celebrate diversity and raise awareness. She also mentioned that another goal is to help students connect.

Celebrating IEW provides students, faculty and staff with opportunities to enjoy the benefit of international education and exchange worldwide.

IEW is an opportunity to prepare Americans, BC students included, for a global environment. The IEW enables BC students, faculty and staff to develop a broader understanding of world cultures and languages while creating enduring friendships among cultures.

ISO had an information booth set up Nov. 17-18 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. promoting International Education Week, the theater presentation of "Around the World in 40 Minutes!" and club



Top: Treasurer and co-president of the International Student Organization, or ISO, Somayah Ali and member Kelsey Mahan inform students of International Education Week. Bottom: Tyler Strickland shows interest in the International Student Organization. Treasurer and co-president of the club, Somayah Ali, stands at the booth.

PHOTOS BY ALISIA SANCHEZ / THE RIP

membership.

At the ISO booth were club treasurer and co-president Somayah Ali as well as members Kelsey Mahan and Seungju (Jane) Lee. The three BC students assisted other students with information and questions as needed.

ISO president Rochelle Czar mentioned, "I want students to know it is a great way to know we have cultural diversity on campus and that international students and their attributes can impact the way you see the world, in a more profound way."



Tree foundation makes impact locally

By Christopher Baptiste
Reporter

Established in 1994, the Tree Foundation of Kern and its many volunteers have planted over 14,000 trees in schools, parks, neighborhoods and along streets all over Kern County.

On Nov. 14, the foundation celebrated its 20th anniversary of greening and shading Kern County at the Metro Gallery in the heart of downtown Bakersfield.

The event was designed for guests to relax and enjoy wines from Croad and Rutherford vineyards, appetizers from the Bakersfield College culinary arts department, music, a silent auction and artwork.

The foundation is a non-profit organization with big name sponsors such as IKEA, Chevron, PG&E, Carosella Properties, Blacktop Cyclery, Tejon Ranch, Croad & Sunview vineyards, and Synagro, among other supporters of the tree themed event.

Event coordinator and executive director of the foundation, Melissa Iger, worked hard for what she called a fantastic turnout at the 20th anniversary for the foundation.

"I couldn't ask for better," Iger said. Iger has been working for the foundation for eight years and enjoys shading the county, and likewise the greater city of Bakersfield.

"For the tree foundation, I just work hard to make this a stronger foundation, and plant more trees for Kern County," Iger said.

Iger is a former BC student who has a certificate in horticulture that she is obviously putting to work in the Bakersfield community.



VANESSA A. MUNOZ / THE RIP

Left to right: Sally Sterns (Horticulturist at B.C./Board member of Tree Found.), Melissa Iger (Executive Director of the Tree Foundation of Kern), Maggie Cushine (Resource Division Director of The Boys & Girls Club), Adam Alvidrez (Public Affairs Representative of Chevron), Tiffani Alvidrez (wife of Adam Alvidrez). Almost all guests have an important role in the Tree Foundation of Kern.

"This is what Bakersfield needs. Overall, it enhances the quality of life and air. Getting involved with the tree foundation was a great investment of time."
—Bethany Lopez, Delano teacher

"As we all know, the air is so dirty here," she said, "so our goal is to plant more trees to help clean our air and shade Kern County."

Not only has Iger received some of her education at BC, she has also made a contribution to the campus in a lasting and important way for the campus.

Iger and the foundation helped plant 100 trees for the 100th anniversary cel-

bration at the Bakersfield College main campus on Panorama drive.

Local artist Gregory Iger donated a tree picture for the auction and said, "The event was beautiful! I wish I had more time to talk to the people. There are so many interesting and influential people. It makes for a lot of fun."

Delano teacher Bethany Lopez was one of the guests in attendance and said the event was a great experience to be had for the evening at the gallery.

"This is what Bakersfield needs," Lopez said. "Overall, it enhances the quality of life and air. Getting involved with the tree foundation was a great investment of time. I enjoy giving back to the community."



VANESSA A. MUNOZ / THE RIP

A hot attraction of the night was the Japanese Maple Tree, a beautiful display that received many compliments.

Ag event: Beef, beer, and bets

By Darlene Mangrum
Reporter

The 2nd annual "Beef, Beer, & Bets" fundraiser for the Agriculture Department at BC is back.

Last year the department wanted to have a fun event with a western theme that would help raise money for the Agriculture Department so they chose steak, beer, and poker.

This time the fundraiser is offering even more casino games.

This year the Agriculture Department is hosting a night of steak dinners, beer, and casino games, amongst these games is a Texas Hold 'Em poker tournament, Blackjack, Craps, Roulette, and a Silent Auction with plenty of prizes for the winners. Players must be over 18 to play the games.

The proceeds from the fundraiser go to BC's Agriculture scholarship funds and leadership programs.

The department is hoping to sell at least 250 tickets.

The event will be held on Saturday, Nov. 22 at the Bakersfield Ag Pavilion, at 3300 East Belle Terrace.

The dinner starts at 6 p.m. and the games start at 7 p.m.

The cost is \$30 for the steak dinner, \$30 for the poker games buy-in or \$50 for both the dinner and the games.

For more information contact Sally Sterns at (661) 395-4446 or email her at [ssterns@bakersfieldcollege.edu](mailto:sssterns@bakersfieldcollege.edu)

Priorities in line for semester

By Darlene Mangrum
Reporter

Priority registration for the next semester is already on the calendar and students are having mixed feelings about it.

Some feel it is just not fair, whereas others have it and are grateful. Some know what priority registration is, but they are not on the list, and others are looking into it for next year.

Scarlet Stewart, a veterinarian tech major, said, "It is unfair that some students get to register earlier than others, especially when those pre-registration students end up dropping the class at the beginning of the semester."

Stewart also said, "I have not been able to get a class that I really needed because of pre-registration students, and these students were not even serious about their education."

Culinary Arts major Kayla Solomon is a priority registration student who believes that the system is very fair because "it honors students that are doing well in school." According to Solomon, "People who are serious about their education and are in good standing at the college, have earned their priority registration status."

Isabel De La Rosa, a human services major, said, "I am not a priority registration student as of yet, but I will check in with a DSPS counselor and see what is needed to be eligible. I think all I need is a satisfactory GPA."

If a student is not sure if they have priority registration, here are a few hints to help them decide if they are eligible.

One, if a student belongs to a specific group or special program, such as, DSPS or EOP&S and have completed matriculation, orientation, assessment, and counseling.

Two, students who have completed, orientation, assessment, counseling and have a Student Educational Plan (SEP) on file.

Three, high school seniors who have completed the early registration process for BC.

And students who have already earned a degree at BC are eligible for priority registration after students who have earned 45-60 units have already registered.

For more information, click on the link www.bakersfieldcollege.edu/counseling/registration

Honors society gets involved at BC

Phi Theta Kappa looks to boost up achieving students on Bakersfield main campus

By Elizabeth Castillo
Reporter

Phi Theta Kappa, an international honor society, has a local chapter that hopes to celebrate high-achieving Bakersfield College students with scholarship and leadership opportunities.

Beta Alpha Nu, the local chapter on campus, holds regular events to raise money for the organization and provide students with community service experience. Phi Theta Kappa is an invitation only organization.

This ensures that students with a high caliber of academic achievement at BC are chosen to be a part of the organization and are given access to upwards of \$37 million a year in scholarship funds.

"Among us membership is a privilege earned by qualifications, honor, and service," states the preamble of the organization's constitution.

On the local level, BC student Kristen Clark-White hopes to lead the organization into a successful future.

Clark-White currently serves as the president of Beta Alpha Nu and wants the organization to shine on campus.

"I decided to become president because I have managerial experience and this chapter desperately needed it," she said. "We needed someone to come in and help figure out finances, procedures and above all getting us seen on campus more to increase our participation."

Clark-White is currently undecided about her future at BC, but has found leading Beta Alpha Nu a rewarding experience. She said

that she finds alumni of the organization throughout Bakersfield and around campus.

Several professors on campus have been involved with the organization, and Clark-White said that she may eventually stay in Bakersfield to continue the growth of the chapter at BC.

Although a student must first be invited to officially join the organization as a member, Clark-White said that students who have not yet received an invitation can still participate in Phi Theta Kappa.

"We still allow students to participate as a provisional member," she said. "They will not hold office or have any voting privileges but they are welcome to be a part of our chapter while they work to becoming an eligible member."

To become a member, students must complete 12 units at BC and have an accumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher.

Invitations to join the organization are sent out at the beginning of a new semester.

There is a \$75 fee to join the organization, but Clark-White said that students shouldn't be deterred by the fee.

"At first I thought it was a scam email," she said.

"I had never heard of PTK on campus before."

"Once I took the time to look into it, I was excited and honored."

Members earn valuable leadership experience as an elected officer, and help with the organization's Honors in Action Project. The project is the organization's way of providing back to the community of Bakersfield.



ALISIA SANCHEZ / THE RIP

President of the local Phi Theta Kappa chapter, Beta Alpha Nu, Kristen Clark-White leads the honor society meeting and discusses food pantry donations.

BC to be a green campus

By Brooke Howard
Reporter

Last summer, Bakersfield College's only form of recycling, which was in the form of bins, were taken out of various parking lots around the Bakersfield College main campus.

This semester, Craig Rouse, director of Maintenance and Operations, has been trying to initiate a new program that involves all of Bakersfield College staff and students.

"We are getting proposals for recycling companies to put together a plan that fits our campus," he said.

Rouse said certain things should be taken into account when creating a recycling program for the campus, such as where the main flow of traffic is and how much waste Bakersfield College generates a year.

"One of our goals is to really involve SGA and all of the departments to work together on this program," Rouse said. "We think it's really important to reach out to the students and faculty to get their help as well."

A recycling program around school means the Bakersfield College community would have to be more diligent in where waste is deposited.

Although Rouse states, "It would be easy, though, for the students because we are just going to implement Phase 1 blue cans which all recyclables can go in together."

"A recycling program would just help everyone. It keeps people employed, saves the environment, and helps the school," said Rouse.

One student, Veronica Ortiz, has been recycling out of trashcans at Bakersfield College for almost two years.

She says makes a majority of her income by sorting through the trash on campus.

"I have a son in the hospital, and I recycle to even eat one meal a day," Ortiz said regarding her customs of sorting through the various trash cans to get recyclables around campus.

"Security says I interrupt classes and leave trash everywhere, but I know I don't," said Ortiz.

While Bakersfield College's recycling program has been gone, one student, Monica Diaz, weighed in on the controversy.

"I think that the students that are recycling right now are fine, but when the program starts, maybe they should see if the school can employ them or they can recycle another busy place, like the Marketplace."

Book fair brightens up the day for children close to BC

By Darla Mangrum
Reporter

The Child Development Center just had their Scholastic Book Fair Nov. 3-7, which earned the center over \$712 in free books for the center's classrooms. The proceeds go back into the center after every fair held.

The center's manager, Danell Ward, called it a "success" because she feels that any money that goes back to the children is always a success.

Scholastic books are an inexpensive way that parents can purchase books for their children and get them involved early.

Each month parents or caregivers can order books from the monthly flier that is distributed in the classrooms.

Every time the center places an order they get credit toward free books.

According to Ward, the center started hosting book fairs to find



ALISIA SANCHEZ / THE RIP

The Bakersfield College Child Development Center hosted a book fair Nov. 3-7.

other options to help support the classrooms at the center. Scholastic sends the center all the dis-

plays to host a book fair where parents and children can look at and touch the books in an event

that encourages a hands-on environment in the Child Development Center on the Bakersfield

College main campus.

"In the past we have hosted a potluck event in the evening."

"This year we did a harvest festival evening for the families and their children to come and spend time together as they are looking for new books," Ward said.

Within the last year there were two book fairs held at the center here on the BC campus.

In December 2013 the fair earned \$716 in free books, and in May 2014 the center earned \$504 in free books for the children at the Child Development Center.

"Every time the center holds one of these book fairs they earn credit for free books and supplies that go back into the classrooms for the children and teachers," Ward said.

"For example, we used some money for magnifying glasses, a science kit, and some books."

Local rock and roll band Stanley J Tucker has ties to Bakersfield College

By James Macias
Reporter

The Stanley J Tucker Band is a ringing hard rock powerhouse with a visionary drummer who is a student at Bakersfield College and has literally never seen a thing.

This rock 'n' roll refugee is composed of six members: Stanley J Tucker, lead vocals/lead guitar; Jason Keeney, 33 rhythm guitar; Russ Wonderly, 46, bass guitar; Brian Benson, 35, rhythm guitar; and Anthony Rodriguez, 26, drums.

The members, all from Bakersfield except for Wonderly all BC alumnus, have referred to their musical stylings as "progressive metal" or alternatively they also proclaim it to be "ear splitting, in your face, good ol' fashioned rock and roll."

Their most recent performance was at Jerry's Pizza and was enthusiastically received by the crowd.

Their music rings out like a demonic call to arms mixed with a down-home harmonic classic rock feel until the two somehow become one.

Tucker's presence would fill the room even if he didn't say a word, but while he can seem a bit soft spoken, he clearly never runs out of things to say and offers a strong stage presence.

"I've been trying to put this band together for more than 10 years," said Tucker at an impromptu meeting over pizza after their performance.

"I had a band in '08. Brian was in it, but that fell apart."

"I spent two years making my (solo) album 'American Revolution,' and I made some music

videos ... pretty much took it as far as I could on my own and I wanted to start playing shows when Russ and Anthony came along."

The name of the band has had an interesting history which Tucker decided to relate at this point.

"It really goes back to 2002 when I was up in a tree trying to cut a branch, lost my footing and fell 12 feet, broke my back and my heel bone," Tucker said.

"When the doctor came into my hospital room he told me I had broken my Calcaneus and I said 'that's a great name for a rock band!' Calcaneus was the name of the first band, but we discovered that when you googled it all you got was page after page of feet."

"Also I noticed that Stanley J Tucker was a lot easier to re-

member."

Wonderly chimed in with a cheerful attitude that turns out to be pretty typical of his behavior.

"Evidently he (Tucker) had made some music videos and a mutual friend showed them to me, and I said: 'I wanna jam with that guy!' I was told he needed a bass player and drummer, and I said I knew a guy."

When Wonderly mentioned he knew a blind drummer, Tucker said: "That sounds cool."

Tucker is quite adamant that he had no reservations or hesitation at all about considering a blind man as his drummer.

"Well I just feel like your supposed to close your eyes when you play music anyway. You have to feel it man," Tucker said.

He went on to describe their first session together.

"First, we tried a jam session

at this tiny little studio that had no A/C, and afterward I looked around and said 'that's all we need!' Brian and I have been neighbors for many years so he's been a part of each of my projects, but I thought we needed one more guitarist in case Brian couldn't make it (to a show) or something because all of our music has been written for two guitars and since then it has just turned into three guitars."

The group found their third guitar at an open mic night at Trouts in Oildale.

The performance that they caught was spoiled by an overzealous guitarist next to Jason who turned his amp up loud enough to drown out everything else, and they are adamant that Rodriguez is the only one who actually heard their future brother play that night.

Tucker was so impressed by Keeney's stage presence that he decided on the spot to hire him.

From there they became what Rodriguez has referred to as "my only real family now that my grandma is gone."

They all agree that they share a deep bond of brotherhood cemented through their music and muse.

The Stanley J Tucker Band is an upcoming rock and roll powerhouse easily reminiscent of Korn, Black Sabbath or Metallica in their early days.

After a very long chat, the guys summed up their thoughts and feelings about their band and its music when Anthony said: "Music is my medicine" a sentiment which they all echoed passionately.

If that's the case then we all must be very sick.



ALISIA SANCHEZ / THE RIP

Julber Gonzalez (left) and Andre Ramirez (right) of the Bakersfield College Culinary Arts Department helped distribute hot dogs and water to veterans, students, and supporters during the Vet Fest. According to Ramirez, they helped make 300 hot dogs for the event.

VET FEST: BC Veterans Club brings back the event for another year to honor student vets

Continued from Page 1

velopment Department, WIC, and 2-1-1. Recruiters for the Air Force, Army and Navy were also present as well as CalVet, Vet Center and the Wounded Heroes Fund. CSUB, financial aid and EOP&S also had booths present to make information available to veterans and students. The Veterans Club also had a booth at the event, and was run by Barrientos and other members.

Barrientos, who took over the Veterans Club a year and a half ago, said that the club consisted of only three members then. Now, the club consists of between 60 and 70 members. Barrientos has deployed three times to Iraq. He was wounded twice in his second deployment, receiving two Purple Hearts. He received another in his third deployment, during which he lost both his legs.

"Now I'm home ... trying to go to school, and trying to do better for my community," he said. "[The Vet Fest] is my legacy that I'll leave behind when I leave BC."



ALISIA SANCHEZ / THE RIP

Veteran and musician Evan Morgan performs at this year's second annual Vet Fest held Nov. 6.

BC workshop caters to local veterans

By Phillip Rodriguez
Reporter

Veterans looking to attend BC were able to attend a workshop designed to assist them with financial aid, and more specifically aid-related to the GI bills and other vet-related assistance.

On Nov. 10, the day before Veterans Day, the educational adviser for veterans, Tina Mendoza, gave a presentation explaining what benefits returning vets could receive. Several other members and staff accompanied her such as the Veterans Affairs certifying official Linda Cordoba, and economic adviser for Financial Aid Evette Lara.

"I think the GI Bill is a great way for Veterans to go to school," said Mendoza.

Two bills were introduced to the attending vets, the first being the Montgomery Bill. Under this bill, Mendoza explained, veterans can attain around \$1,800 and 36 months of benefits with regard to college. The VA will not pay for tuition, books or parking under the Montgomery Bill, however.

The second bill is the Post-9/11 Bill, which pays \$1,300 and spans a 12-month period, but also pays for tuition and books. Veterans who

have access to both can take advantage of each option consecutively, said Mendoza.

Among the other programs offered to the attendees were Extended Opportunity Programs and Services, as well as work-study programs supplied by the VA and Employment Development Department.

Among the veterans attending was Paul Peterson, a Marine who has recently come back to Kern County after serving 10 years as an aviation technician. Peterson, a native of Tehachapi, said that he is looking into the bills to "progress" his profession.

"I think it's awesome. Something is better than nothing," Peterson said about the bills.

Also attending the workshop was Curtis Gomez, a foreman in the Navy who came to the event in order to see if the GI Bills would transfer into four-year schools. Gomez also said that he felt positively about the bills, saying that they were very helpful.

Mendoza repeated to the veterans that they should all apply for each program, including FAFSA.

These workshops are conducted every semester, according to Mendoza, with the next GI Bill pertaining to the fall semester.



ALISIA SANCHEZ / THE RIP

Pasquale Rucco and Douglas James, or the Rucco-James Duo, perform at the Simonsen Performing Arts Center on Nov. 6.

Guitar duo performs at BC

By Elizabeth Castillo
Reporter

The Rucco-James Duo, a musical partnership specializing in 19th century guitar performances, played for the Bakersfield College community at the Indoor Theatre on Nov. 6.

The duo is comprised of Pasquale Rucco and Douglas James. The two met at a music festival near Venice, Italy 20 years ago and have played together since. Although specializing in 19th century pieces may seem specific, this period of time is special to the duo because the 19th century was the first major "golden age" of the guitar. The duo includes operatic pieces in their performance because of how popular those songs were at the time. "Everyone knew opera then, even the peasants. It was popular music at the time," Rucco said.

Some of the operatic pieces the Rucco-James Duo chose to perform did not merely peak in popularity in the 19th century but remain familiar in current pop culture. The duo performed "Sinfonia nell'Opera" from Gioachino Rossini's "Il Barbiere di Siviglia"—in English known as the "The Barber of Seville"—which can be heard in commercials and cartoons.

During and after the performance, James showed the audience the different guitars the duo were using and explained some of the history behind the instruments.

In the first half of the program, the duo played French music, and appropriately used French guitars from approximately 1830. James said that the French guitar was slightly smaller than other period guitars they used. The duo said it's important to use authentic guitars of the 19th century because they ensure the quality of the music. "They lend a different sound and the instruments can inform a listener's interpretation,"

James said.

After the performance, the duo spoke to audience members further about the guitars they used and shared more information on the pieces they performed. When the duo isn't touring, they both incorporate music instruction into their everyday lives. Rucco is the founding director of "A.C.I.F.," a consortium of music academies based in the Naples region of Italy. James is a professor of guitar at Appalachian State University. Both see music as an important part of a student's life.

"I like to introduce people to music, and kids who want to be musicians," James said. "I try to give students the best help that I can so they have the best chance at success. I was self-taught for many years."

James said that although he was strumming badminton racquets from the age of 4, he didn't begin playing guitar until he was 13. He said that he wished he had a good instructor to show him how to properly play the guitar from the start, as he sometimes struggled with self-instruction.

Rucco began taking his musical studies seriously when he was in his 20s. Although it was difficult for him to seriously practice in his youth, he realizes now how important music is for young individuals. "Music is a way to fill the brains of young people. It's great brain food," he said.

To ensure the duo still has time for musical instruction, they primarily tour three times a year. James said they tour the U.S. in March and spend time playing in Italy during May, June and August. Although making time to tour in their busy schedules is difficult—especially since Rucco lives full-time in Italy while James lives in the U.S.—the two enjoy their travels and have a lot of fun playing live. "We have such a great time playing concerts," James said. "It's great to connect with the audience."

AVAILABLE NOW

Transfer to Success Scholarship

Up to \$5,000 Award

Automatically Awarded to Qualified Students

Transfer Friendly

Year-Round Enrollment



NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

A Private Nonprofit University
Serving the Public Good™

Call Today • (661) 864-2360

nu.edu/transfer

Applicants must meet eligibility requirements and be formally accepted to National University. Funds paid in accordance to the scholarship terms. Some restrictions may apply.

Staff Editorial

Students, get some manners

A simple hello, thank you, and good morning can go a long way.

A problem with the Bakersfield College campus and the students who attend classes here is that many seem to lack proper etiquette.

So often we find certain areas around campus to be filthy, and that has a lot to do with students not picking up after themselves.

The campus cafeteria is a good example of students not tending to their own mess. It can be hard to find an empty seat, let alone an empty clean one. There is always left over food on the table, napkins, and empty beverage bottles.

There should be no reason for our cafeteria to look this way when the cafeteria provides numerous trashcans inside the facility.

As students, we need to be more considerate of others and pick up our leftovers.

Most of the campus restrooms are also filthy, and it is not entirely the janitorial workers responsibility to keep them clean. It is also the students' responsibility to keep them that way.

We are adults and there is no possible explanation as to why our restrooms look the way they do. Yes, the toilet paper is free and we don't pay for it, but don't abuse that freedom by stuffing a whole roll inside the toilet bowls.

After one washes their hands one should throw the paper towel into the trashcan, not leave it thrown in the sink.

Bakersfield College also has a problem with bad manners. Others should not distract a student inside a classroom during a lecture, but it happens all the time.

While it's true that there is no such thing as a stupid question, what about the questions that have nothing to do with the lecture, or the questions that have already been answered by the professor? Many times, students have to deal with these scenarios, and it is not fair to them and their education.

If a student knows their question has nothing to do with the lecture, just wait until after class to ask the professor the question.

When another student is holding the door for you, don't just walk through and say nothing. Just say thank you. It is rude for one not to acknowledge another student's kindness.

There have been several situations when students are left holding the door for others and it takes up to the fifth person to walk through for someone to say thanks. That is just horrible.

The library should be one of the quietest places on campus, but, at times, students are there making noise, being a distraction to others trying to study or do homework.

There have also been situations in which other students have exposed themselves to others in the library.

Some of these etiquette issues around campus can be easily fixed, but it all falls in the hands of the students at Bakersfield College.

Renegade students are responsible for themselves and how they present themselves. If students on the campus would fix themselves, then the belief is that the campus would be clean.

Another problem facing BC is students going to class with bad hygiene.

Before one makes an effort to make it to class, one should do a breath check, B.O. check, and check his or her clothing attire.

Going to class smelling unpleasant or in unclean attire only distracts students who are eager to learn.

No one wants to be distracted by awful smells.

Renegades, we need to have more pride in our campus and in ourselves. Let's focus on fixing our values and let's make this campus more enjoyable for those around us.

A new power rises on Capitol Hill

Republicans get their chance to take the reigns

By James Macias
Reporter

The Republican Party is firmly in control of Congress following the recent midterm elections. Finally, we have an atmosphere in which our legislature can no longer complain that it's impossible to get anything done.

So-called partisan politics has been a common scapegoat of our leadership for far too long. With any luck at all, we can finally expect to see serious action taken on issues that too often get ignored in favor of problems, which are by their nature insoluble.

Frankly, there are serious problems in our world that we can't fix. No matter how many laws you make, people will still fall through the cracks of our society and languish in poverty and hopelessness.

Finding these kinds of answers is a job for a think tank or a laboratory, a church or a philosophical institution, even a hospital not our senate. Our Congress needs to be addressing practical solutions to identifiable problems and serving the common welfare of our nation.

When things like funding and basic security are still in the to-do column, it is irresponsible to waste time discussing how we feel about it or what we should do to make ourselves feel better.

With one or the other party in control of Congress, real headway can be expected, but with Republicans in control, there will be progress toward a more stable and robust atmosphere.

The economy will

flourish and our military will be funded while our freedom to define our lives by our own terms will be increased.

Historically, our government operates

well when Congress is controlled by a majority with opposing views of the president. For example, during Bill Clinton's first two years in office, the Democratic Party had a majority in both the House and the Senate. Despite this, little real progress was made on any front.

However, halfway into his first term, a midterm election delivered a polar shift in party control and suddenly things started to get better leading to Clinton's subsequent re-election and ultimately to one of the largest periods of growth and prosperity our nation has experienced. Shockingly, things seem to run less efficiently if one party is in control of all three branches of Capitol Hill.

This mix of liberal leadership and conservative balance on the part of the legislature is a very underrated American methodology that never gets any attention and hopefully continues to serve us into the foreseeable future.

In the meantime, while our current president rides out his term as a lame duck, it will be essential for the present leadership to work hard on developing a strong platform from which to launch the rest of the 21st century.

I don't know how seriously any specific Republican is taking this line of thought but as time passes and these events become clearer on the horizon, I think an atmosphere of anticipation will begin to roll in and may serve to inspire them all to see things the way I do.

Democrats prepare for the long, hard road ahead

By Graham C Wheat
Contributing Editor

It seems like more than a trend in this country, but rather a basic instinct of the American voter.

Turning over control of the government every two years to the other party seems like just a normal thing to do.

This instinct is manufactured, and a detriment to the country every time it happens.

The latest election has, once again, enacted a power shift in the House of Representatives and the Senate to republican control; if you thought Congress' approval rating couldn't get it any lower, be prepared for a shock.

For the last few years we have had the least productive government in history.

This shift in power every couple of years is part of that larger epidemic that is sweeping the country.

Our politicians have voters so polarized by creating artificial reasons to find the opposite party in contempt of whatever duties they had promised to perform.

While the commander in chief has far from a perfect track record, the people who are meant to speak for the common voter are turning in an even worse scorecard.

The Republican Party is the largest contributor to this stalling of the gears in government.

They have actively derided any legislation proposed by the Democratic Party to great ends; whether you love or hate Obamacare, you know how the republicans feel about it. Those of you who are tired of hearing about it will have to find cover; it will be a huge point for the next two and a half years.

Indeed, the prospective future for the House and Senate looks grim.

Examine who the GOP has placed in power of the Senate. Mitch McConnell is a career politician who knows how to play the game of politics and will do anything to stay in those positions of power.

His political career, of which is the only type of career he has

ever had,

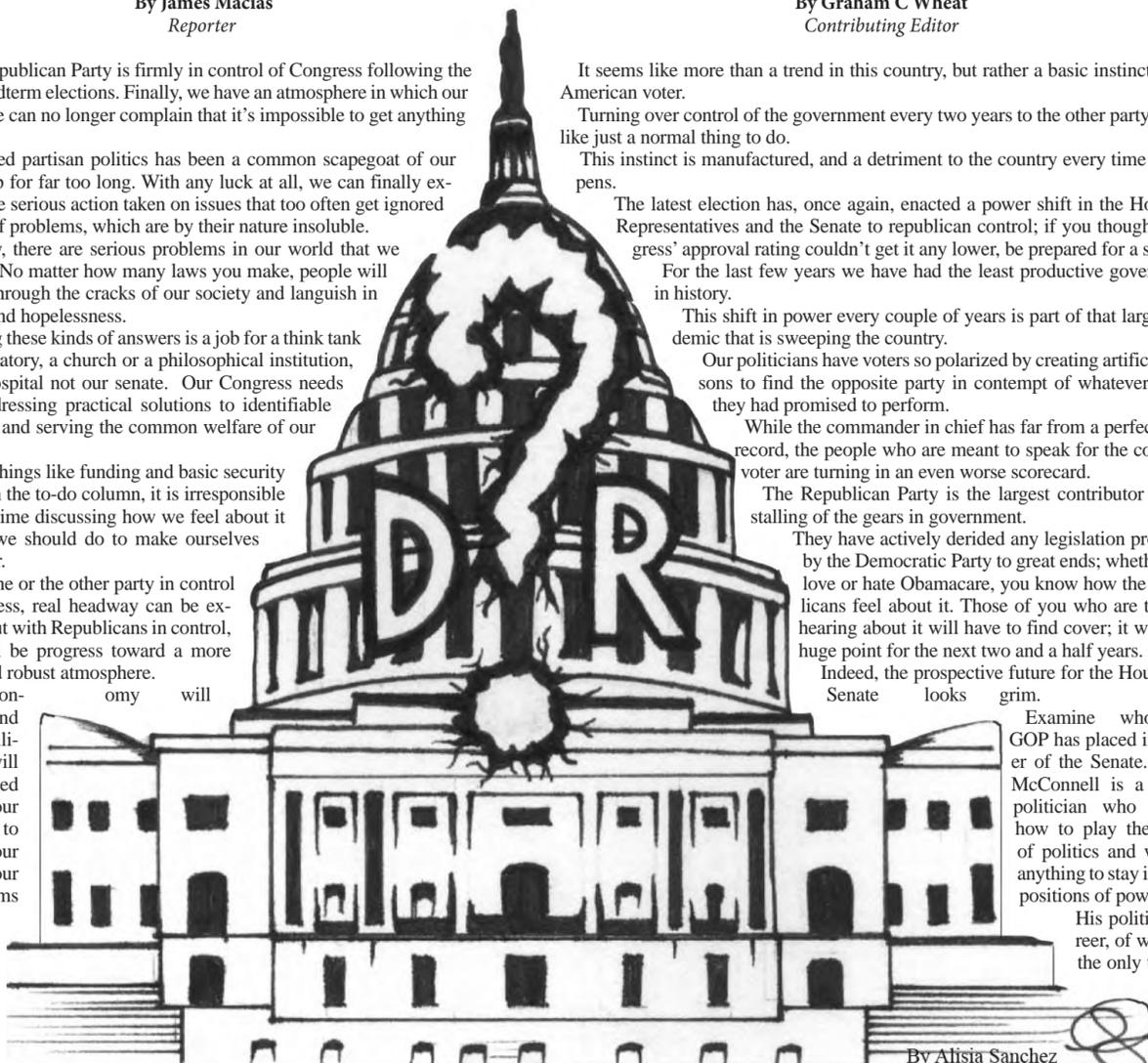
started in the South calling for republicans to take an active role in the civil rights movement. Since the GOP has become a shadow of their altruistic self, McConnell now falls in line with anti-abortion promoters to keep in a place of great influence.

Perhaps his greatest shift in sensibilities is his acceptance of corporations. Once a defender of smaller government and the workingman, he now takes his priorities in queue for the Keystone XL pipeline.

And let's face it, who wants a quasi-Muppet man as their decision maker?

To be sure, there will be bills and legislation enacted. Very few, but there will be vehement senators and congressmen speaking aloud on the house floor for republican issues. If you're any of the quintessential minorities, it's going to be a long two years. If you're a woman who lives in Texas and doesn't care for the prescription of republican oppression, please move now.

During this mid-term election, many republican states were even suspected in a massive voting scandal, whereby republicans lead an initiative to combat voter fraud that wasn't even present. They were rigging mid-term elections in their favor by compiling a list of possible double voters. This is what type of party we are getting. All we can hope for is that this round of republican control of the country leaves a sour taste in everyone's mouth. That way, we don't vote for someone like Ted Cruz or Mike Huckabee as president in 2016.



By Alisia Sanchez

TV Review

'Gotham' making a name for itself on prime time TV

By Phillip Rodriguez
Reporter

Never have I looked forward to an ongoing TV series more than I have when waiting for the crime drama that is "Gotham." Set as a prelude to the inception of the iconic Dark Knight, Batman, the show takes place immediately after and surrounding the events that shaped Bruce Wayne after being orphaned by an anonymous assailant.

With a fully capable cast made up of actors and actresses ranging from very

well-known celebrities like Jada Pinkett Smith to rising stars like Robin Lord Taylor, the Monday night series has found a way to hook viewers with memorable and intense performances, whilst simultaneously not relying solely upon characters created in older and more established incarnations of the DC legend.

While many of the lesser-known characters who usually fall to the background of the Batman universe are placed in the foreground with the introduction of then-detective Jim Gordon, a veteran and

new Gotham City Police Department detective, the show progresses with impressive yet suspenseful speed as each episode produces a new piece of the puzzle that is Gotham City.

Small gems planted in each episode may be lost on the more casual Batfan, but for the devoted comic book reader, the show provides more than enough references and nods to concepts and the classic lore that has given birth to the multi-faceted heroes and villains that we recognize today. However, one should not

be discouraged from watching this show simply because a person may not be as dedicated to the comics or movies that Batman has found himself tied to, as Gotham creates an atmosphere of its own, and helps the reader understand everything that is occurring.

The dialogue, though occasionally ridiculous, finds its strengths in the creativity of the writers, who always seem to pop a surprise upon the viewer near the end of each episode, drawing you back every week to see how each conundrum should play out.

In short, Gotham is a show for the superhero lover, and the detective lover. It's a show that finds many ways to attract all types of people and is worth giving a shot.

Though the early episodes tend to drag on slightly, the payoff is immense.

This series stands its ground among the plethora of superhero-based movies and shows that are being created in this day and age, and is a must-watch for anyone who enjoys excitement.

★★★★★



Winner of the 2003 and 2008 JACC Pacesetter Award

First place in 2011, third place in 2013 for CNPA General Excellence

The Renegade Rip is produced by Bakersfield College journalism classes, printed by Reed Print in Bakersfield, and circulated on Wednesdays during the fall and spring semesters. The newspaper is published under the auspices of the Kern Community College District Board of Trustees, but sole responsibility for its content rests with student editors. The Rip is a member of the Journalism Association of Community Colleges and the California Newspaper Publishers Association.

The Renegade Rip

EDITORIAL BOARD

Editor in Chief..... Elizabeth Fernandez
Opinions Editor..... Elias C. Ahumada
Sports Editor Daniel Ojeda
Contributing editors: Graham C Wheat, Kennedy Thomas

Adviser..... Danny Edwards

STAFF

Reporters/photographers: Mohamed Bafakih, Christopher A. Baptiste, Elizabeth Castillo, Trina Goree, Monique Hansen-Garcia, Brooke Howard, Vanessa A. Munoz, James Macias, Darla Mangrum, Phillip Rodriguez, Alisia Sanchez

Write The Rip

Letters should not exceed 300 words, must be accompanied by a signature and the letter writer's identity must be verified.

The Rip reserves the right to edit letters, however, writers will be given the opportunity to revise lengthy or unacceptable submissions.

If an organization submits a letter as a group, it must be signed by only one person, either the leader of the organization or the letter writer. Anonymous letters will not be published.

How to reach us

-Address: Bakersfield College,
1801 Panorama Drive, Bakersfield, CA
93305
-Phone: (661) 395-4324
-Email: ripmail@bakersfieldcollege.edu
-Website: therip.com

Food Review

Mesa Mexican Grill pleases newcomers

By Trina Goree
Reporter

Mesa Mexican Grill restaurant is one of the latest eateries to open in Bakersfield. Luckily for Bakersfield College students, the restaurant is conveniently located blocks away on 2509 Mt. Vernon Ave. The restaurant might be a little difficult to locate if it is your first time visiting. It took me about 20 minutes of hunting to find it.

Here is some needed information that will help you in seeking out some of the best Mexican cuisine in town. Look for the Rite Aid on the corner of Mt. Vernon Avenue and Bernard Street; the restaurant is on the side of Rite Aid.

The food at Mesa Mexican Grill is simple, but the taste will knock your socks off. The menu is not overly complicated like some other mexican grills around town.

It includes five simple steps in completing your meal. First, you choose your dish: burrito, burrito bowl, taco, nachos, quesadilla, and quesarito.

Second, choose your protein: char grilled chicken; char grilled beef, spicy shredded beef, ground beef, shrimp, and veggie (price of your meal will vary according to your choice of protein). Third is choosing your filling followed by step four, which is choosing your toppings (this is where you



ALISIA SANCHEZ / THE RIP

The Mesa Mexican Grill, now open on Mt. Vernon Avenue, next to Rite Aid, is only blocks away from the Bakersfield College campus.

can be as much or as little adventurous as you want with an array of options). Finishing off your

creative meal process is step five, which is choosing your sauces to place on top of all that delicious

food you have just ordered.

They also have domestic and imported beverages for those of

us who enjoy a responsibly tasty alcoholic beverage from time to time. Mesa Mexican Grill sells by the tap in a glass or bottle.

The prices range from \$2.50 to \$3.25. Prices are perfect for the college student who wants to enjoy a meal and drink while having a wonderful time and not breaking the bank to do so. The restaurant offers the perfect balance of great dining. You will not feel like you are eating in a cheap fast food restaurant, but you will also not feel like the restaurant is taking your hard-earned money as well.

Mesa Mexican Grill also caters to the sports fan in all of us. All week long, the restaurant hosts game nights. Whether you are a Monday, Thursday, or Sunday night football fanatic like me, Mesa has you covered with all the important football action offered throughout the week.

To sweeten the deal, your domestic and imported beverages are even less expensive on the days that football is playing. If you like your drink specials during those big games, this place has you covered. All you will need on these days at Mesa Mexican Grill is for your team to win.



Music Review

Foo Fighters fall flat with latest lyrical foray

By Elizabeth Castillo
Reporter

The Nicest Guy in Rock n' Roll leads the Foo Fighters into sonic disappointment with their eighth studio album.

"Sonic Highways" was written and recorded all over the nation. The album was supposed to reflect the musical diversity found all across the country from punk to blues to hard rock and so on. Instead, the album is a lost, hodgepodge of supposed genre influence that leaves listeners confused and begging for the tracks the Foos released over a decade ago.

The record's radio single, "Something from Nothing" is a terrible representation of what the Foos are capable of. The song's introduction is extremely reminiscent of the opening notes to the band's 2005 release, "Skin and Bones." The something from

something else track continues its way through mediocrity by stealing a guitar riff from '80s metal band Dio. "Something from Nothing" bears an interesting resemblance to "Holy Diver." The only saving grace of the track is the organ appearance that adds a funky vibe to the song.

"What Did I Do?/God as My Witness" has a promising beginning but eventually becomes a cheesy and unnecessary ode to classic rock that merely defiles the genre. The song also features piano and fiddles, adding odd moments of country rock. "What Did I Do?" further adds to the loss of identity experienced throughout the album.

While most albums should end on an epic or memorable note leaving listeners wanting more, "I am a River" is one of the least notable songs of the entire album. The song begins

very pleasantly but throughout the song's very long seven minutes and nine seconds, the lyrics are dreadfully vague and full of cheesy New York generalizations. Obnoxious lyrics such as "secret behind the soho door/reason beneath the subway floor" exhibit some of Grohl's worst lyrics ever. The track ends with a cliché string-section-outro that is entirely unnecessary and over the top.

The cross-country ode to music was supposed to inspire the band and influence them into creating a unique album blending wonderful genres found in the dives and bars spotted through big cities. This beautiful idea is not entirely heard in this album, but some songs allude to what the Foo Fighters were actually aiming for. "The Feast and The Famine" shows the inspiration Grohl was looking for in this road trip. The track is sonically

more exciting than other songs in the album. It displays punk characteristics with sing-along repetition, a short length and fast-playing guitars. Lyrically, the song could be more original, "where is the monument/ to the dreams we forget" is an obvious allusion to D.C. but Grohl pays the most respect to the district's punk scene by creating a likeable song that shows his roots in punk. The song was recorded at Inner Ear Studios in Arlington, VA and shows the passion the Foo Fighters mostly lack in "Sonic Highways". Another song on the album worth a listen is "Congregation." It has a nice poppy sound that the Foo Fighters accomplish pretty well. The song is reminiscent of the previous acoustic rock hit "Cold Day in the Sun." Overall, "Congregation" is a pleasant track that shows that the Foo Fighters haven't completely forgot-

ten their sound. Additionally, the song features Dave Grohl's new buddy Zac Brown, which may have added to the success of the song. Grohl wasn't trying to force a guest appearance and perhaps the two had a genuine jam session while creating this track. It is one of the longer songs on the album, but doesn't drag on unnecessarily. Through "Congregation", the Foo Fighters take listeners on a musical journey that illustrates the idea behind "Sonic Highways."

While the Foo Fighters may have missed the mark on this album, a couple of standout songs save the Foos from complete inferiority. Overall, "Sonic Highways" is a disappointing mess of songs that show the Foo Fighters spread themselves too thin in an attempt to be inspired by the sounds of our nation.



Game Review

New Call of Duty: Advanced Warfare will get you flying

By Graham C Wheat
Contributing Editor

Have you been playing the newest Call of Duty and thought to yourself, "Man I wish this game had limited-use jetpacks!" If so, you're in luck.

The latest iteration of the massive franchise, published by Activision, is making waves around the video game community just like it has for the last few years. With a shift in developers -- Sledgehammer Games this time around -- COD brings the series into the near future with sci-fi gadgets galore.

Yet again the world is in constant conflict, and it is up to the new augmented soldiers to take care of things. In Advanced Warfare, private military company Atlas is much of the focus for the story line. A digital Kevin Spacey plays the role of the company's founder, and consistently spews metaphysical tripe about the changing world and the role of corporations in combat. Most of the story felt gleaned from a Metal Gear Solid game, and although Sledgehammer tries it best to force-feed you some gripping circumstances, they fall short.

Inevitably, it leaves you feeling like the game is a caricature of itself. The story feels more like a mechanism to introduce and drive the new features and gadgets of the game than a de-

vice to connect a player to something cohesive.

The biggest change of pace for this year's title isn't some cinematic set-piece or gripping storyline. It is the introduction of soldiers outfitted with military-grade exoskeletons that put the "advanced" in Advanced Warfare. Besides the new gimmick, it is pretty much the same Call of Duty you have played in the past, but this time it involves even more frantic-paced action.

The exoskeleton, basically an augmented booster jump pack, allows players to leap on top of buildings or hover in place and unload a few rounds, all with a couple taps of a button. This new feature has drastically increased the size of the levels and the rate of character movement. If you thought Call of Duty was hair trigger before, get ready to beef up your snap responses.

Barring a few hiccups at launch date, some of the Internet cried foul on the connection issues, the multiplayer is business as usual for the series.

The multiplayer component, which is why most people buy a Call of Duty Game, is now even more frenetic.

As you can imagine, giving the ability to hop effortlessly onto buildings or across huge swathes of the map has increased the pace drastically. No longer are "campers" rewarded with holding out in some remote

corner; someone jet packing across the map will find you and it won't be pretty when they do. The new mechanics harken back to the days of Unreal Tournament glory with players darting around the arena at breakneck speeds. The guns play the same as they always have, with the exception of a futuristic laser cannon.

Players can now earn exclusive guns or gear to modify their online character cosmetically or mechanically with the addition of supply drop crates. This new, seemingly random, loot system offers some nice incentive in the online department. The online community has either gotten older, or it is just a little less toxic this time around. After a few days of playing,



GOOGLE IMAGES

only minimally did I get told I deserved "the ebolas" and just a few times was my mother sleeping with some 13-year-old from Southern California.

Call of Duty Advanced Warfare does provide some refreshing entertainment in the series; however, it still seems stale for some reason.



Aid process needs revision here at BC

By Monique Hansen-Garcia
Reporter

There needs to be an overhaul in how financial aid for community colleges operates. Maximum 90 units and no financial aid? Excuse me, but what the hell? OK, it's cool, I'll just appeal, they have to understand. "Denied." Not enough evidence of the circumstances and cannot appeal under the same reasoning for more than one semester, I was informed after I had waited from August to November for an answer.

Am I alone here? I have attempted 90 units and should have graduated in the Bakersfield College class of 2005-2006. In failed attempts and through numerous unforeseen hardships, I would withdraw, fail, and drop out of BC three times before I got my life steady enough for a moment of clarity. I returned to the BC campus with a renewed sense of hope in 2012. I was older and wiser, and in 2013 I became a full-time student. I allowed my work to become secondary and relied heavily on financial aid to pay my bills that the job used to cover.

I was being worked against with a probation period of academic renewals that prohibited me from getting grades lower than an "A," because of how low my overall GPA was --and still remains-- regardless of how great I do in my current semester. I could even get a 4.0 GPA and it would barely make a splash in the cumulative GPA that spans as far back as my first year attempting to attend BC in 2003. All the hard work done fruitlessly, when I was now, a year later, being told that I had hit my peak in attempted units, and therefore unable to receive financial aid. It's the most absurd thing I ever have heard. There needs to be a change. Colleges need to instruct the incoming freshmen better about the financial costs that the future they are working for will entail.

I, the typical working-class college student, have waited tables and bartended my way through my last semesters. I am a student taking on major loans to finance myself through the three-month periods that my employment takes the back burner to my studies. The conundrum being if I don't work, I don't eat. Being a college student has its long hours, especially if you are trying to participate in the college experience by participating in extracurricular activities.

I have discovered that the highest point of concentration and best time for myself, personally, to learn, is during the evening. These peak hours for my brain are also peak hours for working at my job. Hours are typically only available on weekends and evenings. Without work, my rent doesn't get paid, my books aren't bought and I am forced to work to make money for the two, even missing class to do so. I can't win for losing.

Who made this financial aid bylaw? Most likely, a Harvard graduate, or someone like him or her, whose parents financed their college tuition is the one who decided that 90 units is too many attempted for a community college. The new way for financial aid cuts with students is to pay a student mid-semester or at the end of it. How will students afford this? This plagues my consciousness at all depths and personally hits home. The financial aid departments throughout California should make it their goal to assist returning students at all costs, not put additional roadblocks in their way and impede on the student's pocket books.

I'm tired of dropping out and failing classes because food and rent are more important. When making life decisions, financial aid is supposed to assist a student in being able to devote themselves to the school. Not all of us are buying brand new cars, Jordan's, or new wardrobes. Some of us have a life to live that cannot be financed without financial aid, including the school supplies one needs to attend school.



ELIAS C. AHUMADA / THE RIP

Nakiah Page (24) goes up for a contended jump shot against Taft College defenders. Page went on to score 11 points in the Renegades rout of Taft. The final score was 78-51.

Women's basketball starts off season 4-0

By Monique Hansen-Garcia
Reporter

The Bakersfield College women's basketball team won three games in the past two weeks, including two at the BC Crossover Tournament in the Gil Bishop Sports Center, and another on the road.

The BC Crossover took place Nov. 7-8 where the BC women went on to win both games.

The following weekend, the team went on its first road trip to Lemoore and would win that game, improving the BC team record to 4-0.

No one was prouder than Coach Paula Dahl of her squad.

"We have a lot of work to do, still, though," Dahl said at the end of the Crossover tournament.

Although certain players did shine bright throughout the tournament, the group did exceptionally well as a team.

"What's impressed me the most is, every night, we have dif-

ferent people stand up. We have a lot of depth. I'm pleased with how hard this team is working at practice, what they are making happen, and I'm really excited to see what we are going to grow to," said Dahl.

For the BC Crossover, the team ended with a combined total of 142 points scored, outscoring its opponents by 40 points.

The tournament began Nov. 7 with Reedley playing Rio Hondo. After that, BC played Taft and won 78-51.

Khiylah Dean led BC with 17 points, making 8 of 10 attempted shots and 1 of 3 from beyond the arc. Dean also finished with eight rebounds and three steals.

Yoemma Esparza also had an impressive game, finishing with 12 points. She also led the team with three assists. Esparza had one steal and four rebounds.

Clasey Tarver and Nakia Page both scored 11 points.

Page led the team in rebounds with 13 and made a huge impact

defensively contributing with five blocks and two steals.

On Nov. 8, BC faced Reedley and closed out the tournament with a 64-51 win.

Tarver chipped in with 16 points, five rebounds and three steals, carrying the team to victory.

Reedley's biggest pitfall was all the foul trouble that ensued. Constant pressure from BC's defense forced turnovers at pivotal points including drawing the fouls for extra points that made the difference in the game. The game went into the half mark with BC leading 29-23.

Rosebrooke Hunt had an outstanding defensive game, contributing with 11 defensive rebounds and 15 overall. Hunt also ended the game with two block shots and three steals.

Page added 12 rebounds, 11 points, and two steals.

"I don't think it's about winning and losing, I think it's about learning, every single game,"



ELIAS C. AHUMADA / THE RIP

Nakiah Page (24) manages to get through the paint against Reedley defenders for a layup. Page scored 11 points in a lopsided 65-51 victory to finish 2-0 in the tournament.

said Dahl. "We won today, but we still have to work on our composure. We are going to play some really challenging teams, every game we have to get stronger with the ball and keep working on the fundamentals I drive into practice."

When asked, Dahl said it had been a while since the team started this hot.

"We will just keep working on what we've been doing. Teaching them how to get into triple threat, teach them how to play high pressure defense and run; but, not force shots, and we still have a lot to work on, but we will get there."

Game 4 was the first away

game of the season, versus West Hills, held in Lemoore on Nov. 14. BC won 80-68.

McKaiela Tyler made an outstanding show in the game, with 14 points, Tyler was 4 of 8, and 2 of 4 for three-pointers, leading the team with seven rebounds, six of which were defensive. She also had three assists. Tyler had the team high in defense with five steals and three blocks.

Page led the BC team with 18 points, her season high for a game. She had four rebounds and two steals.

Alex Green went 5 for 8 and 2 of 4 in threes for 14 points. Seventeen points came from the team's reserves, proving once

again that the bench is a force to be reckoned with.

Dean was all over the court, with four defensive rebounds, four assists, three steals and a block.

"Right now I have to process the tournament, what we have done, and get a different press, and we will be tweaking all preseason. Every game is just a practice to get us ready for conference," said Dahl of the team's performance.

BC returns to action Nov. 22 with a 1 p.m. home game against Taft, the same team it beat in the Crossover tournament. The Renegades then play in the Santa Ana Tournament on Dec. 4-6

Soccer team drops last match, misses playoffs



Left photo: BC's Erin Morales (14) fights for possession against Citrus defenders during a game Nov. 7 at the BC soccer fields. Right photo: Savannah Melendez (13) battles for the ball against Citrus' Brittney Frias. BC lost 2-1.

By Mohamed Bafakih
Reporter

Another women's soccer season is in the books for head coach Scott Dameron and company.

The women ended an up and down season on a five game losing streak after starting 5-1-1 early on.

However, conference play was a whole different story for the Renegades as they went 3-9-2 in a tough Western State Conference - South division.

"We started off good, but we had some

injuries (concussions) and just didn't know what to expect at times," freshman forward Victoria Pyle said.

Bakersfield College went on to drop their final four games getting outscored 18-2 over that span with two games played at home.

College of the Canyons once again lit it up offensively as they beat BC 7-1 in Santa Clarita on Nov. 4.

The Renegades fought hard the following game here at home vs. Citrus, but the Owls outlasted BC in the second half to go on to win, 2-1.

In the last home game for Bakersfield,

Santa Monica's Jayma Martin had it going, scoring two-of-three goals in a 3-1 victory over the Renegades.

The season finally concluded where it started - on the road on Nov. 14.

Pyle gave BC an early 1-0 lead in the 10th minute, but that was the last goal of the season for Bakersfield.

LA Valley scored five straight goals throughout the game, ending the Renegades rollercoaster season with a 7-10-3 overall record and 3-9-2 in conference. Despite the rough end to the season, the team can learn from these losses moving forward.



ELIAS C. AHUMADA / THE RIP

Men's hoops starts off 2-1

By Mohamed Bafakih
Reporter

Bakersfield College's men's basketball opened up their season down in Fullerton in a three-day, eight-team tournament Nov. 13 that had BC players filled with confidence and excitement.

"We're hungry. We're not even going to sleep tonight. It's time to go eat," Lawrence Moore said before gameday.

Returning point guard Demontrey Mitchell also joined in on the weekend ahead.

"This is a business trip," Mitchell said. "A lot of blood, sweat, and tears have been put in so we're ready."

Bakersfield opened up the tournament against L.A. Trade Tech that ended in dramatic fashion as Trade Tech defeated BC in three overtimes, 88-85.

Deandre Dickson, a 6-foot-9 freshman, led the way for the Renegades with 29 points (12-for-25 shooting), 25 rebounds and four blocks.

Another freshman, 5-8 Jameik Riviere, came off the bench for the Renegades and filled up the stat sheet with 14 points, nine rebounds, nine steals, and six assists despite turning the ball over nine times.

"It was good. I was just giving it all I got," said Riviere on his performance.

Isaiah Rogers added 12 points and C.J. Johnson scored 11 points and grabbed six rebounds off the bench.

BC out-rebounded Trade Tech 64-36, but 31 turnovers and key missed free throws down the

stretch hurt the Renegades. "It was an eye-opener," head coach Rich Hughes said. "[We] can't get down on it."

Bakersfield played the following day against Santa Barbara with a Consolation Championship game at stake.

BC rolled passed the Vaqueros 68-53 as Dickson posted another double-double with 14 points and 11 boards, while Riviere chipped in 18 points on 4-for-5 shooting and 7-for-8 from the free-throw line in 23 minutes.

On Nov. 15, the Renegades faced Victor Valley for fifth place in the tournament and a Consolation Championship to take home.

Bakersfield controlled the final two minutes of the game going on a 6-0 run and wound up winning 75-70 taking home the hardware.

Chaffey College beat L.A. Southwest 86-77 for the tournament championship.

Dickson capped off a spectacular weekend with 37 points and 18 rebounds sinking in 16-of-22 shot attempts in the championship game.

"I just played my game and took advantage of my height. I want to keep this kind of play all season long," Dickson said.

Dickson is currently second in the state in the points per game category (26.7) and as well as rebounds (18.0)

The Renegades (2-1) will next travel north to West Hills in Coalinga (2-4) on Nov. 21 in their second preseason stop before hosting the Thanksgiving Tournament on Nov. 28-30.

BC wrestling goes 1-2 in tournament

By Mohamed Bafakih
Reporter

Gil Bishop Gymnasium was finally able to lay its wrestling mats down after 35 days without an event. The Renegades, the state's 10th-ranked wrestling team, hosted the South East Athletic Conference dual tournament Nov. 15.

Three other ranked teams: Cuesta (6), East LA (12) and West Hills (18) joined banged-up Bakersfield to gain some conference rights.

Cuesta breezed through the competition going 3-0 overall and winning each match with double-digit team points.

Coming in second was East LA that went 2-1 on the day, followed by Bakersfield (1-2) and West Hills (0-3).

Despite BC only winning one match against West Hills 24-21, the Renegades were forced to forfeit 18 total points after giving up three weights classes.

Marco Velasquez, 125-pound freshman, who has had a tremendous season to this point, was a late scratch after sustaining a right ankle sprain two days before the tournament while training that will keep him out for at least two weeks.

"Honestly, it sucked," Velasquez said. "I feel like it was a missed opportunity, but I'm just going to take some time now and get better to get ready for regionals and state."

Along with Velasquez, Greg Pagela (165 pounds) and co-captain Cesar Luna (174 pounds) were unavailable as well.

Pagela tore his meniscus following the Modesto Tournament and is out indefinitely while Luna was excused for Marines-related duties. Vincent Gomez replaced Luna as a captain and showed up well, winning all three of his matches – including one against seventh-ranked John Sinclair of Cuesta – despite cutting nearly 30 pounds from 184 to 157.

"I've been on the mat since I was 3 so it's like nothing new (cutting weight), but it's definitely something that you have to mentally prepare yourself for because cutting weight and having to wrestle – and perform on top of that – is not easy," Gomez said.

Gomez also mentioned it has been the best he has seen the team as a whole.

For head coach Brett Clark, it was still a pleasant afternoon despite dropping two of three matchups.



Jack Murphy, left, tries to get top position against his Cuesta College opponent at the South Athletic Conference dual tournament held in the BC gym.

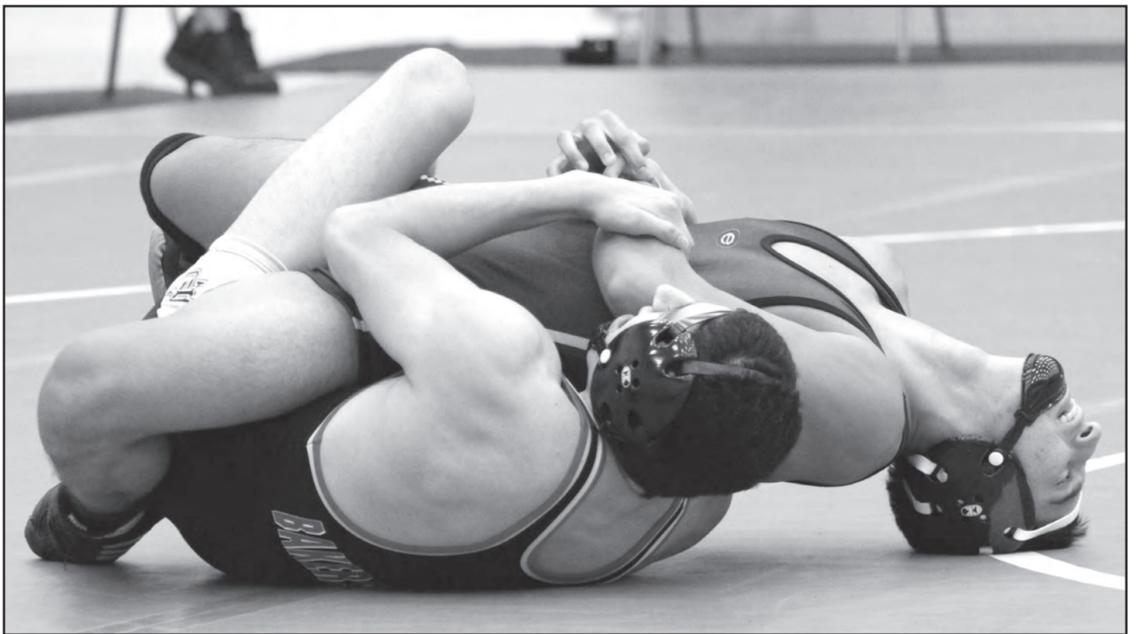
"There's still some work, but I feel good, you know," Clark said. "We wrestled really well against West Hills ... we battled. We battled against Cuesta. [with] East LA. We were in there but we made some dumb mistakes."

Renegades' workhorse and the state's number one wrestler at 197, Jack Murphy, also individually put on a show and continued his superb season with key wins over the state's third best at 197 Clayton Hartwell, East LA's Herrera, and a forfeit by West Hills.

"He (Hartwell) is kind of a younger guy and if there's anything that my dad has taught me is if you wrestle these younger guys, you got to break them mentally because they'll easily break," Murphy said.

Murphy broke Hartwell mentally by getting the needed take-downs and went on to win the match 9-4.

Next up for BC is The Brawl down at East LA College this Saturday before the Southern Regional Championships and CCCAA Championships.



Arik Onsurez, bottom, does a cheap tilt against his East L.A. opponent at the South East Athletic Conference dual tournament held at the Gil Bishop Gymnasium on Nov. 15. The Renegades would go on to lose the match.



Things got chippy in the first half of the Nov. 15 game at Memorial Stadium as players from Ventura College got involved in a scuffle with BC players. BC won the game 25-19.

FOOTBALL: BC looking for sixth straight

Continued from Page 1

down the field covering 75 yards. Then with the game on the line, BC quarterback Tarek Yaeggi found tight end Khalin Smith open for a 13-yard game winning touchdown. The Renegades would go up 25-19 after successfully converting a two-point play.

Yaeggi had a rough start to the game, throwing three interceptions in the first half but would settle down to throw for 135 yards on a solid 10-for-17 passing attempts with one touchdown.

Running back, Douglas seemed to carry the offense at times, despite having a run of only 15 yards as his longest rush; he would barrel through defenders and helped the offense reach the first downtime after time.

The crowd of over 3,400 Renegade fans were very aware of Douglas's power and would stand to cheer every time he touched the ball, as it seemed like it would take two to three Ventura players just to bring him down.

With the win, the Renegades close the regular season on a five-game winning streak and are heading into Saturday's bowl game against Chaffey College of Rancho Cucamonga riding high.

The Renegades have peaked at the right time, and the players seem to have a better un-

derstanding of what everyone's role is.

"If everyone does their job, someone will make a play. It's just a matter of knowing your role and doing your job," said Chudy.

Now as a reward for not giving up earlier in the season, the Renegades get a chance to continue the winning streak against Chaffey, which has an identical record to BC.

"I'm just happy for our players who have come a long way and stayed the course. This team has been together through the ups and downs early on and have done an amazing job just sticking together," Chudy said about his reaction on receiving an invitation to a bowl game.

Chaffey comes to Memorial Stadium on a hot streak as well, winning four of their last five games.

This will be the first football meeting between both teams but the Renegades are ready for the challenge.

"We don't know much about them," Chudy said. "They're a quality football team and they played a quality schedule with a signature win against Long Beach."

The Renegades look to finish the season off with a bowl win as they host Chaffey College in the Western State Bowl game on Nov. 22 at 4 p.m. at the Memorial Stadium.

Complete Your Degree or Credential at University of La Verne's Bakersfield Campus

Available Undergraduate and Graduate Programs

- Business Administration*
- Organizational Management*
- Public Administration*
- Health Administration
- Liberal Studies (Teacher Preparation)**
- Multiple or Single Subject Teaching Credential
- Special Education: Mild/Moderate
- M.S. Educational Counseling
- M.Ed. Educational Management
- Doctor of Education in Organizational Leadership (La Verne Campus)

* Also available Online

** Also available at Delano & Taft locations

Attend an Information Session
Saturday, December 6, 2014 at 10:00 AM



UNIVERSITY OF
LA VERNE
Bakersfield Campus

Call toll free at 877-GO-TO-ULV
infosession@laverne.edu
laverne.edu
Kern County Regional Campus
1201 24th Street, Suite D-200
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Jennifer Salas
MBA '09
J.P. Morgan Chase

Volleyball players lead by example

By Daniel Ojeda
Sports Editor

The Bakersfield College volleyball team was looking to build on the success that the team enjoyed during the 2013 season, which included making it to the SoCal Regionals.

But an influx of incoming freshmen and a slow start to the season derailed any chances the team had for a repeat playoff bid. Despite a less than ideal season, the volleyball team has had its share of standout players that have kept the team pushing forward and have helped teach the younger players what it means to play with a team-first attitude.

These standout players are sophomores Tyler Herring and Kourtney Grantz, teammates and friends who have been through it all together. Both attended and played volleyball at Liberty High School together and were part of the freshman class for the volleyball team last season.

As returning sophomores, head coach Carl Ferreira looked to both of these teammates as players that could be relied on for advice for the freshmen or to provide leadership during a game.

A compliment like that from a coach, as highly regarded as Ferreira, is something that these players do not take lightly.

"It's an honor for the coach to see us as leaders. It's an opportunity to grow and impact the people around you," said Grantz.

While Herring said, "It was stressful at the beginning, but

when you're given that title you got to take responsibility of it."

The leadership role that Grantz and Herring earned means that they can no longer mesh into the background or just stand on the sidelines. Now they have to step up and be consistent in all aspects of their game, whether it's on the court or off.

"We have to be better than we were last year, we have to carry a bigger load this season and set the standard," said Herring.

With the guidance that Ferreira has provided this season, he has shown both players how to consistently perform well while preparing for the mental rigors of the long volleyball season.

That guidance has helped Grantz total a team-high 306 kills while also leading the team in points scored for the season. Herring is second on the team with 261 kills as well as second on the team with 336 points scored for the season.

Those individual accolades are something that Grantz and Herring would happily trade if it meant a higher win percentage for the team.

"We don't focus on individual success. I would definitely sacrifice individual stats to get a win any day," said Grantz.

Her fellow Renegade agrees as Herring states, "You want your whole team to do good. At the end of the day you're not going to win the match by yourself. It's your team that's going to help you get that win."

This type of team attitude is something that can be tough on



ELIAS C. AHUMADA / THE RIP

Tyler Herring, left, and Kourtney Grantz, right, warm up before starting practice. As returning sophomore players both have provided leadership and advice for the freshmen. Their last volleyball game is on Nov. 19 in the Gil Bishop Gym.

incoming freshman but once those bad habits are broken, players can start buying into it by helping each other and then that'll become second nature.

The results of team play will eventually begin to show as the Renegades have managed to split their last 10 games winning five while also dropping five games. But those results are far better than the 4-10 record that BC

started off with.

Being a leader on the volleyball court has also had its benefits for Herring.

"I've definitely matured and respect my teammates on a completely different level," she said. "I play for the person next to me and we don't play as individuals. You can see that on and off the court."

Grantz and Herring are both

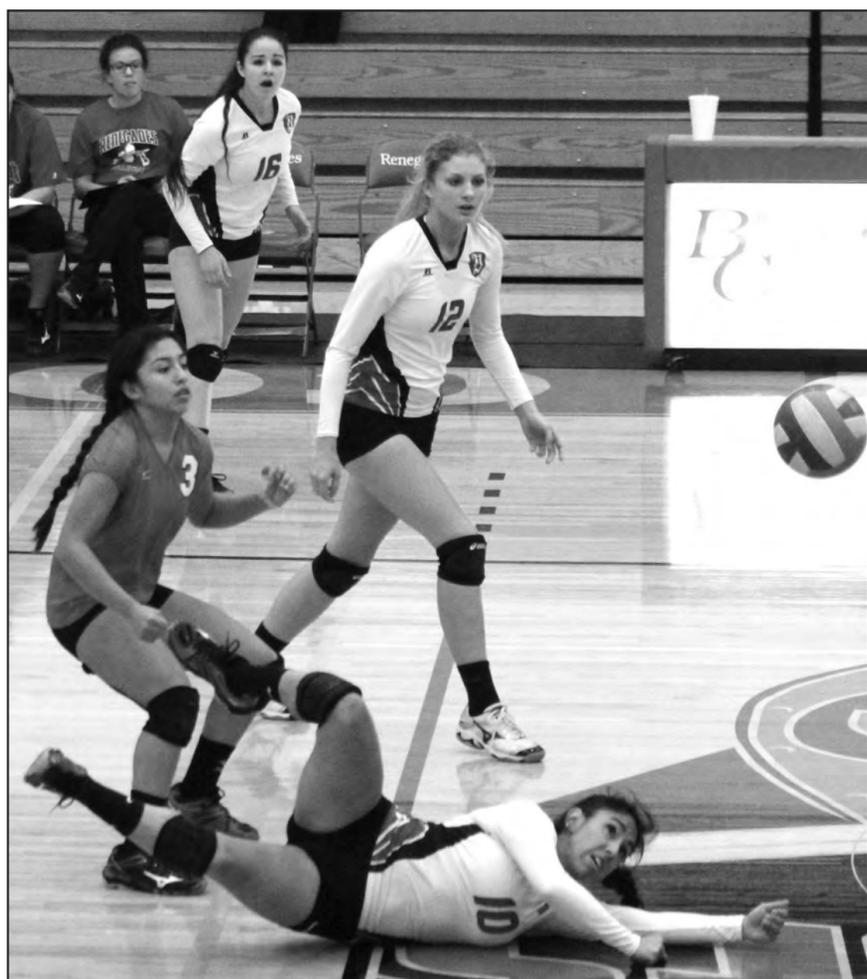
unsure of what their next step is after BC but both know one thing, as long as they are able to play volleyball, then everything will be all right.

While a fitting end to their Renegade careers would be having a chance to make the playoffs, this season they won't get to, but both Renegade players want to help out this season as much as they can so that the

returning volleyball players can benefit from the knowledge that they can pass on.

"I want to be remembered as a real team player that was relentless on the court," said Herring about the legacy she is leaving behind.

While Grantz wants to be remembered for "Being a leader who loved her teammates and was an uplifting person."



ALISIA SANCHEZ / THE RIP

Brenda Contreras (10) tries to make a save during the BC vs. West LA College game on Nov. 7. The Renegades would go on to win the match 3-0, extending their winning streak.

Volleyball team misses playoffs

By Daniel Ojeda
Sports Editor

With the volleyball season nearing an end, the Renegades split their last four games by winning two at home and dropping two on the road. That leaves the Renegades sitting in fourth place in the division with a 5-6 record in division play and with an overall record of 9-14.

Despite the record, the volleyball team has managed to improve play down the stretch.

BC scored wins against Antelope Valley on Nov. 5 and against West LA on Nov. 7.

Kourtney Grantz led the way for the Renegades in both wins leading the team in both points scored and kills.

Tyler Herring finished second to Grantz in both categories.

Those consecutive victories were only the second time all season that the volleyball team has had a winning streak.

But that winning streak wouldn't last as BC dropped the next two, the first to Citrus College on Nov. 12 and the second to College of the Canyons on Nov. 14.

Grantz, once again, led the team in points scored and kills during both losses while Stephanie Lugo finished second in both categories.

The matchup against Canyons gave the Renegades a chance to see what they could do against a first place team.

BC was able keep up with the first place team but ended up dropping all three sets to Canyons.

Next up for the Renegades is the last game of the season against Glendale on Nov. 19.



ALISIA SANCHEZ / THE RIP

Stephanie Lugo (16) leaps high to make a return during BC's match against West LA College.

Cross country teams sending nine runners to state

By Monique Hansen-Garcia
Reporter

The Bakersfield College women's cross country team and two individuals from the men's team will go on to compete in State Championship after qualifying in the Southern California Championships meet held Nov. 11.

The women placed ninth out of 27 competing teams, with the

top 14 teams guaranteed to advance to State.

Glendale took first in the women's race, Mt. SAC took second and Canyons came in third.

The seven women who will compete are Leah Theroux, Jessica Campbell, Emily Freeman, Paola Silvestre, Kelly Hartfield, Yareli Ocampo and Monet Portillo.

Theroux had the best time for

the women's team in the 5-kilometer race (3.1 miles).

Theroux ran the race with the time of 19:41.26, placing 35th overall.

Campbell placed 41st with the time of 19:50.90, Freeman placed 59th and had the time of 20:13.40.

"The women in the Southern Californian division are typically the ones to beat, fierce competi-

tors, and usually lead the state championships," said Coach Dave Frickel.

The men's team failed to qualify for State, placing 22nd out of 28 participating teams.

Because the team will not qualify, the runners who scored individually higher can still go on to State.

"The top 50% overall of the entire field race will go on indi-

vidually, if they placed 15th or higher," explained Frickel.

Runners Juan Calderon and Richard Timmerman will go on to compete individually for BC.

Calderon completed the men's 4-mile race and came in 41st. Calderon had a time of 21:17.87. Timmerman came in 60th in the race, with the time of 21:41.14.

Canyons won first place in the men's race, Mt. SAC placed sec-

ond, and San Bernardino Valley took third.

The State Championship meet will match Northern California against Southern California runners in a battle to see who is the best of the best, on Nov. 22 at 10 a.m.

The Championship meet will be held at Woodward Park in Fresno on Nov. 22 with start time scheduled at 10 a.m.

VETERANS DAY

Bakersfield gives soldiers pride in downtown



ELIZABETH FERNANDEZ / THE RIP

Air Force veteran Bob Gleim stands next to his vintage car as he waits for the day's events to unfold. Gleim was one of many to adorn his vintage automobile in appreciation of the event.



GRAHAM C WHEAT / THE RIP

The South High Rebel Battalion ROTC marches with military colors and multiple flags to show solidarity with veterans on the day of remembrance.



ELIZABETH FERNANDEZ / THE RIP

Luaren Griffin and Vieonna Maldonado, from Endeavour Elementary, dress as sailor girls to participate in the event.



ELIZABETH FERNANDEZ / THE RIP

Bakersfield resident Esther Rodriguez waves a flag as participants in the parade cross her path along the parade's route. Many attendees handed out flags so that others may show their appreciation for veterans at the parade.



ELIZABETH FERNANDEZ / THE RIP

Dressed as a member of the 82nd Airborne from WWII, Marc Sandall carries a flag throughout the parade.

