

The Renegade Rip

BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE

Vol. 86 • No. 13

www.therip.com

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

BC student body elects Fowler as new president

By Elizabeth Castillo
Editor in Chief

The Bakersfield College Student Government Association announced the winners of the 2015 general election, and Clayton Fowler will serve as president of the SGA.

Fowler won the election by receiving 183 of the 595 total votes casted. According to Megan Lonsinger, an SGA senator and member of the Elections Commission, voter turnout was underwhelming.

"Turnout was lower than expected," she said. "Three percent of BC voted, but that's normal."

As of fall of 2014, there are approximately 19,143 undergrads at BC and only 595 students voted. The total voter turnout was 3.11 percent. Although turnout wasn't high, the race for the president-elect was close.

Fowler received 183 votes, and runner-up Colton Nichelson received 177 of the votes as well.

The vice president-elect position came between Janell Orozco and Sahar Forouzanfar with Orozco winning the position by 23 votes. Chad Hidalgo ran unopposed for the director of student organizations position.

Although elected positions have been decided, SGA has applications still available for appointed positions. The student body does not vote on these positions, but students running for appointed spots should still engage with students, according to Lonsinger. Applications are available at bcstudentlife.wufoo.com/forms/bcsga-appoint-ed-position-application/



MARCUS CASTRO / THE RIP

Clayton Fowler, the president-elect for the 2015-2016 academic year, finishes up his duty as SGA senator.

The winners were announced at a reception in the Fireside room on April 16. Fowler gave a short speech on his win, and Orozco did not attend. Fowler has been involved previously with SGA

and hopes to utilize his past experience in his new executive position.

"This past year I've been really immersed in what it takes, being one of the more involved senators has really prepared me for the role," he said.

Fowler, 20, is finishing up his service as the Allied Health and Fire Technology senator. He said that when he joined SGA, it was important for him to make improvements to the SGA's constitution.

He found it unsettling that there were no checks and balances within SGA and wanted the constitution to resemble the U.S. constitution.

"I really saw a lot of problems with how SGA was being run," he said. "If someone was having a problem with someone else, they could just impeach them."

While there was originally little oversight in the old SGA constitution, Fowler said that constitution changes include a three-branch system composed of the executive, legislative and judicial review branch, similar to the U.S. constitution.

According to Fowler, both BC President Sonya Christian and vice president

of student affairs Zav Dadabhoy encouraged the changes of the SGA constitution.

Fowler is also keenly aware of issues important to the BC student body. He said that SGA began working on a smoke-free campus but experienced a lot of negative feedback with the decision.

After further polling on the issue, Fowler believes that students are split on the issue pretty evenly, but ultimately he wants all students to have a say on a final decision.

"I want to make sure it's something that all the students weigh in on," he said. "Let everyone's voice be heard."

Another issue that Fowler hopes to handle is student apathy toward SGA. He said that he wants to create a more community-like feel at BC via school pride. He wants students to be aware of SGA and utilize the association as a resource.

"Students didn't really know about SGA," he said. "I really didn't like that. Students should know who we are and to be able to come to us."

A few more initiatives Fowler hopes

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Election Results

Total Votes Cast: 595
Voter Turnout: 3.11%

President

Candidates	Votes
Clayton Fowler.....	183
Colton Nichelson.....	177
Reg Autwell.....	82
Michael Avila.....	81
Jacob A. Diaz.....	38
David Fluhart.....	15
None of the Above.....	15
Unanswered.....	3

Vice President

Candidates	Votes
Janell Orozco.....	289
Sahar Forouzanfar.....	266
None of the Above.....	36
Unanswered.....	4

Director of Student Organizations

Candidates	Votes
Chad Hidalgo.....	507
None of the above.....	78
Unanswered.....	10

Senator

Candidates	Votes
Jessica Espinoza, Communication.....	252
Jose Chavez, Civil Engineering.....	215
Alfredo Sanchez III, Criminal Justice.....	211
Daniel Galvez, Biology.....	210
Victoria Roel, Forestry.....	201
Navid Partovi, Nursing.....	189
Maddie Herndon, Agribusiness Mgmt.....	184
Wesley Lyons, Chemistry.....	178
None of the Above.....	53

Constitutional Amendments Approval

Yes.....	524
No.....	50
Unanswered.....	21



MASON J. ROCKFELLOW / THE RIP

Marcus Macias, 19, a biology major (left), votes at BC, while Ryan Davis, 18, an engineering major, gets help from Patti Rapp (right).

Whistleblower speaks on government errors

By Javier Valdes
Reporter

Notoriously known whistleblower Daniel Ellsberg, 84, visited the Cal State Bakersfield Doré Theatre to present "Why the United States Needs More Edward Snowdens," as part of the 29th annual Charles W. Kegley memorial lecture on April 14.

Ellsberg, most notably recognized for serving as an anti-war activist and for leaking documents revealing U.S. policy in the Vietnam War known as the "Pentagon Papers," arrived to a full house during his evening memorial lecture.

Ellsberg started off the lecture speaking about a recent investigation done by USA TODAY which revealed that

the U.S. government began collecting records of international telephone calls made by Americans nearly a decade before the Sept. 11 attacks.

Ellsberg went on to state that the U.S. government's role, as revealed in the investigation, was in direct violation of the Fourth Amendment constitutional rights.

Having been illegally wiretapped and robbed of his privacy rights himself, Ellsberg has been a victim of such direct violation of the Fourth Amendment, "I was overheard on warrantless wiretaps, which were then clearly illegal and unconstitutional, and that was a factor in facing President Nixon with impeachment and probable prosecution, which lead to



RHIANNON STROBERG / THE RIP

Daniel Ellsberg, the individual responsible for leaking the "Pentagon Papers," spoke on the U.S. government.

his resignation," Ellsberg stated.

Ellsberg continued with the reality of exemption within the executive powers reiterating a famous Nixon quote, "when the president does it, it is not illegal."

Ellsberg revealed that former Vice President of the United States Dick Cheney, who worked in the White House during President Nixon's administration, de-

fended such exemptions during the time of his trials in the 1970s. "Cheney has constantly said that the president is being too trampled by Congress and by these laws; he was clear at the time, that Nixon should not have faced impeachment and that the people who were put in jail for breaking the law, in some cases against me,

Please see SPEAKER, Page 5

Student owns local art gallery

By Brooke Howard
Features Editor

New and young artists alike now have a place to show and sell their art as well as get work experience, that place is Elder And Oak in the East Hills Mall, owned and operated by Bakersfield College student Trish Castro.

The shop opened Feb. 10 and is a new metaphysical and spiritual gift shop that also works as a functional art gallery with crafts, incense and paintings.

Castro has been working from home the past three years but recently opened Elder and Oak as a way to help local artists and do what she loves.

"The art scene is getting really

big in Bakersfield. Unfortunately, there is nothing for younger artists or new artists. My shop gives a way for young artists to be like 'Look! Look at my stuff!' and this is a way for me to be me and have fun while giving back a little bit too," said Castro.

Castro also credits BC's staff and faculty to the opening of her shop and the knowledge of what to do with it.

"If it weren't for BC, I probably wouldn't have made it," Castro said. "I went back to school so I could know what I was doing and [my professors] were able to answer all the off-the-wall questions I had for them when I was getting ready to open the store. The faculty at BC seriously [is

Please see STUDENT, Page 5

Column Stop limiting yourself

Brooke Howard | It's OK to learn the hard way.

We need to break out of this mediocre norm that has been put in place as our new standard.

Everywhere I see people just giving up because things take a little time and effort.

This is especially true for community college students.

Our graduation rate at Bakersfield College is down 17 percent in the past five years. Studies show that only 16 percent of students that attend BC are actually transferring or going on to graduation.

On top of that, it takes students almost three times longer to complete the graduation tasks from our other community college counterparts.

How do we fix this? Whether your path is just going to BC, to get your AA, to transfer or to simply just refresh yourself with some courses, there are ways you can stay focused and look at a bigger goal than you probably thought was possible.

Something that is truly important in life is to have someone who always tells you the cold, hard truth.

This is one of the many reasons that moms become the best counselors later in life.

A mom will tell you the truth. But you can also find this quality in trusty friends or other family members. Bottom line: you need a truthful adviser to call you out.

This is especially important when you are making big life decisions.

A friend that tells you the truth will also tell you that you can't become the world's next Top Chef if you aren't good at cooking, or next hip-hop star with a fire mix tape you made just because it's cool.

Your truthful friend will tell you your strengths, and why you should pursue them.

Another important thing to have in life is a board, notepad or anything you look at daily, with your goals on them.

When you have a constant reminder of where you want to be, it becomes within grasp. The only obstacles we face are our own minds.

Sometimes there will be slumps. Sometimes your progress and little victories won't be shown and that's OK because not everyone needs to know.

And in the end, the success is yours, not theirs. Just remember that when things get hard, just keep pushing.

A really successful man once told me he never helps people because if they deserve it, they will work hard and get it themselves. He said, "This world needs ditch-diggers, so allow them to be lazy and stay a ditch-digger."

What a prick, I know. But let those kinds of people give you the drive to show them that ditch-diggers may rise and powerful executives may fall.

This world is filled with possibilities just waiting for you. Don't let people talk you out of all the things you can be.

Don't let them tell you that you can't become a scientist, doctor, cosmetologist, nurse, historian, teacher, business owner, or lawyer just because of a category, a standard, they put you in.

It's up to you to get out of your comfort zone, to use your talents and skills and cultivate a life that you feel is prospering and happy.

Variety at BC's annual Garden Fest

By Darla Mangrum
Reporter

Bakersfield College's annual Garden Fest, held on campus April 18, featured a number of booths with hidden handmade treasures.

Merilee Armstrong was sitting outside her booth in the sunlight burning words onto reclaimed wood with a magnifying glass. Her booth consisted of wooden signs that she custom burned.

Armstrong commented on how she got started, "a few years ago I had just made a brick patio in front of my home, and as I was sitting there one morning I thought it needed some kind of sign, but I didn't know what it should say. Right after that, a cat adopted me and decided to have kittens on my patio, so I made a sign that said 'Cat Crossing.'"

She said she tried using a wood-burning tool, but it just didn't feel right so she decided to use a magnifying glass. Armstrong has a Facebook page titled It Wood b Art.

Sharing a spot with Armstrong was Brandon Bellflower, who makes wire trees in his spare time to help him relax. He has always loved art and trees.

"I tried to paint trees, but I'm not a painter," Bellflower said, "so after watching a friend make wire trees a few years ago I thought I would try it."

Even though my friend showed me a few years ago how to do it, I didn't try it until eight months ago. I found it very relaxing and a great stress relief."

He found that selling his trees have made it easy to keep paying for his new habit and stress relief.

If you would like to see Bellflowers trees, you can go to his Facebook page, Wired Roots of Bakersfield.

One woman, Candy Wright, made some very interesting garden art, such as a tea pot and matching lawn ornaments, rubber boot planters, and high heel shoe planters.

"I'm a Pinterest follower and I got all of my ideas from there," she said.

She mentioned that this started out as a hobby about one and a half years ago. Then one of her friends who sold plants asked her if she wanted to share a booth last year at Garden Fest.

She enjoyed it so much that she decided to set up her own booth this year and plans on coming back again next year.

Not only was there some unique lawn art, but there were



MASON J. ROCKFELLOW / THE RIP

Paul Serrano (left), Bakersfield College post graduate, and Angel Balbino (right), environmental horticulture and landscape architecture major, share their knowledge of plants with Amy Ritchie at BC's Garden Fest on April 18.

also some handmade jewelry.

Anna Keene was just one person who made beautiful jewelry. Keene has been making jewelry for over 18 years and selling her craft at Garden Fest for over six years.

"I love coming to Garden Fest because I meet such wonderful people," Keene said.

Kristen Rabe was another hobbyist who made jewelry; Rabe has been making her unique style of jewelry for 15 years and has been selling at Garden Fest since it first began 10 years ago.

"I never miss the opportunity to

be at Garden Fest. The people selling and buying are always so friendly," said Rabe.

If you ever want something different to help light your patio or turn your dining room into a romantic setting without using candlelight, then you would probably appreciate the work of Bettye Miller.

Miller has a business called Light the Vines, which used to be just a hobby. She makes handcrafted lighted bottles and lamps.

Debra Stewart-Jones, who calls herself the Jean Queen,

found some great ways to reuse old jeans. Jones has been a crafter for over 25 years but just started recycling jeans about five years ago.

She uses old jeans for jewelry boxes, cell phone cases, rugs, purses, aprons, hatboxes and so much more.

Although this was her first time at Garden Fest, she plans on coming back because she has met so many wonderful people.

Garden Fest is annual event put on by the Agriculture Department as a fundraiser for their department.

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National Poetry Month gathers local poets at BC

By Elka Wyatt
Reporter

Local poets gathered to kick off National Poetry Month by reading poetry inspired by life in the San Joaquin Valley.

About 30 people, including Mike Russo, owner of Russo's Books, attended the poetry reading that took place at the Norman Levan Center for the Humanities on the Bakersfield College campus on April 9.

The theme was Valley Life: Poetry About Our Community.

Don Thompson was the first poet of the evening. Thompson, a former instructor of English 60 at Bakersfield College, was born in Bakersfield.

He has been writing poetry for about 50 years and has been a published poet since the '60s.

Thompson has several books

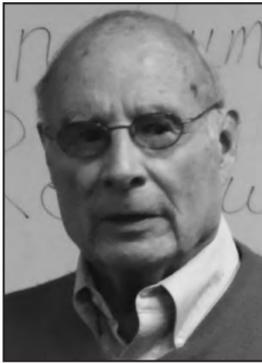
in print as well as a few e-books that can be purchased through his website www.don-e-thompson.com.

"Local Color," one of Thompson's books, is a collection of poetry based on Kern County history.

Thompson read selections from another one of his books, "Keeping the Secrets," which, according to his website, is part three of a San Joaquin trilogy beginning with "Backroads" and "Everything Barren Will Be Blessed."

Professor Emeritus Jack Hernandez, who has taught English, philosophy and American literature at several colleges, including CSUB and Bakersfield College, the next speaker, told the audience that he writes in coffeehouses.

He said that writing his poetry



PHOTOS BY ELKA WYATT / THE RIP

Professor Emeritus Jack Hernandez (left), Portia Choi and Don E. Thompson (right) all recite poems and book excerpts during the poetry reading for the National Poetry Month event held in the Norman Levan Center for the Humanities.

helped him deal with his son's suicide.

His selections included "This Mountain" and "Jastro Park," which he had written about meeting with a colleague to play racquetball at Bakersfield Racquet Club before heading to adjacent Jastro Park to drink beer and talk.

"The best thing about poetry is when it is being shared with people," said Hernandez.

Marit MacArthur, an English professor at CSUB, read her selections "In the Lobby" and "Two Pastors at Starbucks," which was about a conversation she overheard between two pastors at a local Starbucks.

She was followed by Matt Woodman, also an English pro-

fessor at CSUB, who read his poems "Ode to a Kit Fox" and "Roadrunner."

Another poem he read, "Drought" was inspired by the recent drought in California.

Jill Eglund, a Bakersfield native and playwright who has had two plays produced off Broadway and a few produced locally, read her poem "Lost and Found" which is about Kern County, as well as her poems "Seagulls" and "Asparagus."

Professor Emeritus Nancy Edwards, a former English professor at Bakersfield College, read "Light Before Sunrise," "Afterglow" and "Taco Bell Moon."

The last speaker of the night was Portia Choi, who became interested in poetry in high school.

"If one is able to get in touch with one's feelings, write about it and share it, it is part of our common humanity," said Choi. "Poetry is being able to feel."

Her poem "Line Dance" is about being welcomed into the community.

Choi is the president of Kern Poetry, which she started in 2010 at the encouragement of two poets Lee McCarthy and Helen Shanley, both of Bakersfield.

"I want to thank Norman Levan Center for the Humanities for hosting the kickoff for National Poetry Month in Kern County. I would also like to thank Dr. Jack Hernandez, the poets who read, and the wonderful, wonderful people who came to hear our poetry being read," said Choi.

Dates at Skateland and fireworks at Sam Lynn Ballpark

By Darla Mangrum
Reporter

All semester long, The Rip has found some fun and affordable places to go for a date and this edition is no different.

If you're looking for something fun to do with your significant other, you can always go skating at Skateland or have a picnic with fireworks.

Skating is not only fun but great exercise, too. What's really great about Skateland is they have some reasonable prices more than five days a week.

The first Tuesday of the month is Two-Buck Tuesday. Between the hours of 6:30-8:30 p.m., you can get free quad skate rental and only pay \$2 per person.

On Wednesday night every week is Bargain Night. Between the hours of 7:30-9:30 p.m., you only pay \$3 per person and that includes your quad skate rental.

Every Friday night is open session between 7:30-10 p.m. The price of admission is \$6 per person and that includes the quad skate rental.

Saturday afternoons are open session between the hours of

1:30-4 p.m., the price is \$5 per person with free quad skate rental.

Saturday nights is also open session between 7:30-10:00 p.m., and is only \$6 per person with free quad skate rental.

Then they have a Sunday afternoon open session from 1:30-4 p.m., and the price is only \$5 per person including free quad skate rental.

They also have inline skates, if that is what you prefer, and the rental fee for them is only \$2 per person.

Skateland also has party pack-

ages for anyone wanting to have a skating party.

Skateland is located at 415 Ming Ave. in Bakersfield, and the phone number is (661) 831-5567. For more information, go to skatelandbakersfield.com.

If you are not into skating, you can always have a picnic on the bike trail that runs along the river.

The city has just put new picnic tables along the bike trail and one in particular is right off of the North Chester bridge.

The best time for a picnic there is on any Friday night that the

Bakersfield Blaze baseball team is playing a home game at Sam Lynn Ballpark, because there is always a firework show on Friday nights when the Blaze are here at home, win or lose.

The next home game that is on a Friday night is on April 24, then again on May 8, and May 22. The fireworks usually go off between 9-10 pm.

This should give you plenty of time to plan a nice romantic picnic dinner and firework show for the cost of food (which you may already have in your refrigerator.)

Scottish Games held locally



PHOTOS BY ELKA WYATT / THE RIP

The Tehachapi Mountain Pipes & Drums band play during the annual Scottish Games and Gathering festival.

By Elka Wyatt
Reporter

The Kern Scottish Society hosted the 2015 Scottish Games and Gathering at the Kern County Fairgrounds on Saturday, April 18. The festivities started at noon with the March of the Clans.

Members of different Scottish clans were on hand to represent their clans and to give attendees information about the history of their clan.

Many people were displaying their clan's tartan in a variety of ways but mostly in the form of a kilt. The story is that men wear nothing beneath their kilt.

"If they wear underwear, it's a skirt. If they are going commando, it's a kilt," said Trishia Chapman. "And who doesn't love a man in a kilt?"

Men and women alike competed in games like the Weight Over Bar and Heavy Hammer.

There was a scotch tasting booth and Bangers, which are sausages common in the U.K., for sale in the "Banger Booth."

Bands such as Banshees in the Kitchen, a local Celtic band, and the Tehachapi Pipes and Drums band, a traditional Scottish band, performed for audiences.

Bagpipe players and drummers competed against one another.

Kern County Genealogical Society set up a booth to help people find their ancestors.

Several tents offered food, drinks and souvenirs for sale. Some vendor stands carried items geared at those of Scottish Ancestry.

Michael Mara, 47, of Clan Stewart, said "It's always a great time here. I come every year."

Keith Cochran, Commissioner to the Chief in North America, reports directly to the chief in Scotland, had a booth set up for Clan Cochran.

He spoke of all of the descendants of his clan who were brave warriors, writers and people of



William Campbell, poses with his fiddle in the Clan Campbell tent.

importance in their land. The Kern Scottish Society hosts the gatherings each year.

Drive-in now back in Bakersfield

By Elka Wyatt
Reporter

Bakersfield finally has a drive-in movie theater again. Cinertain Drive-In has found a home for the summer with the Bakersfield Blaze at Sam Lynn Ballpark. If the summer is successful, more movies may be scheduled throughout the rest of the year.

Cinertain Drive-In was created by two former Bakersfield College students, Jason and Seggan Sanders, who were inspired by the fun they had in the past at the drive-in.

"The idea just kind of sparked for us, kind of like, why can't we bring this back? We felt like we had a community that was asking for it and we knew that the city was not going to fund one. So for us, it was a moment that we felt was our chance to take it," said Seggan Sanders.

Bakersfield used to be home to five drive-ins: 99 Drive-In, So. Chester Drive-In, Terrace-Drive-In, Edison Drive-In (which later became DeAnza Drive-In), and The Crest Drive-In.

Most were opened around the '50s and were closed in the '80s, with the exception of the Crest which hung in there until 1999.

According to Drive-Ins.com, out of 273 California drive-ins only 17 are in operation. Most have been torn down.

On April 18, Cinertain Drive-In hosted their first double feature at the ballpark. "The Incredibles" and "The Avengers" were the featured movies. Guests were encouraged to dress up as their favorite superhero.

"I just want you to know that I am the real Superman," said Matthew George, 12, who was in the bed of a pickup truck with Ethan Francois, 7, and Lucas George, 2, all dressed as Superman.

Aaron Kitchen, 43, was dressed as The Incredible Hulk.

Julia McKay, 45, said, "I am glad the community has welcomed Cinertain. I hope it will stick around and become permanent."

Mike Taylor, 53, brought his nine year-old son who had never been to a drive-in before. Taylor remembers going to the drive-in about 20 years ago.

"I hope they find a permanent place," said Taylor.

Celina Martinez said that she used to go to the drive-in in Porterville before it closed down.

They have a 40-foot screen, a projector just like the ones used in movie theaters, and the sound comes through the radio with their FM transmitter.

Sanders said that they had a count of 142 cars, which she estimated about 450 people.

"When we originally began



PHOTOS BY ELKA WYATT / THE RIP

Sam Lynn Ballpark houses a 40-foot movie screen for the summer. The screen was provided by Cinertain Drive-In which is owned and operated by two BC students.

last year, we thought that because there were so many people behind the idea of bringing back a drive-in that we would have a successful crowdfunding campaign. We were very wrong about that!" Sanders continued.

"Even though there was so much talk and support behind the nostalgic drive-in, we did not raise anything from that campaign. It was a little discouraging, seeing how we thought there were so many people that were excited about a drive-in and talking about how they drive hours away just to enjoy a drive-in or so they can show their kids what a drive-in is about but no one was willing to help us out, monetarily. After that campaign, we realized that it was definitely up to us. We took out loans, maxed out credit cards to show Bakersfield that we are serious and we would be bringing back the drive-in. We had a few rough months, trying to bring in business and learn how this was going to work, but we stuck at it because we knew

that we had something great and we couldn't give up just yet."

Their most recent Indieogo campaign was a huge success. The original goal was \$2,500.

"The community crushed that goal and by the end of the two weeks, we had raised \$3,590!" said Sanders.

All of the money raised from the Indieogo campaign is going directly toward their summer with the Bakersfield Blaze at Sam Lynn Ballpark.

"It is all going back into making the drive-in experience better for our movie-goers," Sanders said.

Cinertain Drive-In had what they called a "soft opening" on April 4.

The movie featured was "The Goonies." They had over 100 cars. Sanders said that they were shocked and thrilled that they really do have the community's support. They anticipate this season to be extremely successful.

"My vision for Cinertain is to put on great shows, make

the community proud that they helped bring back the drive-in to Bakersfield and just have fun."

As of right now, there are no plans to build a permanent drive-in.

"A lot of the land that is for sale or for lease in town are either regulated or they are not zoned correctly for what we need. It could be a costly expense for us to purchase land or lease land, which could cause an increase in prices for what we currently offer and we aren't looking down that path right now. We are focused on spending the summer at the Blaze and possibly expanding for the rest of the year with them if all goes well this season," said Sanders.

Prices are \$20 per carload. Sanders said to fit as many people in your car, legally, of course. Season passes are available. The concessions trailer is out at each of their events.

They sell items like nachos, candy, drinks, pickles, popcorn and other snacks. They offer any college student a 10 percent discount at the concession stand with their school ID.

Each event night features an opportunity table. Moviegoers can buy a ticket for a dollar to enter to win a prize from that night.

"Basically we aren't looking to make a bunch of money from it. We have so much fun putting on these event nights and so we decided that the money we get from the business would be put right back into it. We are currently in the process of changing from an LLC (Limited Liability Company) to a non-profit company," said Sanders.

Cinertain Drive-In will host another double feature "That Thing You Do" and "Wayne's World" on May 16, 7:50 p.m. at Sam Lynn Ballpark. Gates open an hour before the first movie.



Lucas George (left), 2, Ethan Francois, 7, and Matthew George (right), 12, dress like their favorite superhero, Superman. The trio attend the Cinertain Drive-In.

Get up & Go

April 22

An evening with J. Goosby Smith @ 6-7:30 p.m. Located at the Fireside room. Author of "Beyond Inclusion: Worklife Interconnectedness, Energy, and Resilience in Organizations".

CAS (Critical Academic Skills) Workshop "Innovate" @ 11:30-12:30 p.m. Instructor J. Davies. Located at the SS Building in room 151.

"Worlds got Talent" auditions @ 7-8 p.m., Located at the performing arts center. Four to five minute auditions only. Top six selected in the end.

April 23

"Art Student Exhibit" @ 1-4 p.m. Located at the Jones Art Gallery in the Library.

CAS (Critical Academic Skills) Workshop "Metric Conversions" @ 3-4 p.m. Instructor J.Pierce. Located at the SS Building in room 151.

April 24

"Student Involvement and Leadership Awards" brunch @ 10 a.m.-noon. Located in the Fireside room. BCSGA awards recognition event.

"US Army All-Star Bowl" @ 7 p.m. Located at the Rabobank Arena. \$10 tickets. Presented by many different non-profit organizations that provide free tickets to students or money to local kids with epilepsy, KCSOS. This even will be broadcasting on live local ESPN radio and local cable television.

April 25

"A Noteworthy event" @ 6:45 p.m. Located at the Simonsen Performing Arts Center. The re-opening of the SPARC building. The BC orchestra, BC college choir, guest conductor Ron Kean, DMA. Honored guest the Simonsen family. Tickets, adults \$39/ students \$19.

Merle Haggard @ 8 p.m. Located at the Fox Theater. Tickets \$47, \$67, and \$97.

April 27

"BC Jazz Ensemble Spring Concert" @ 7:30-9:30 p.m. Located at the indoor theater at the SPARC building. Donations are \$5-10.

CAS (Critical Academic Skills) Workshop "Learn for Life" @ 3:30-4:30 p.m. Instructor R.Vickrey. Located at the SS Building in room 151.

April 28

"3rd Annual Presidents Breakfast" @ 7:30-9 a.m. Located at the Fireside room. To register go online to the BC calendar and sign up under the event.

CAS (Critical Academic Skills) Workshop "Strive for Excellence & Emphasize Integrity" @ 11-noon. Instructor V. Robinson. Located at the SS Building in room 151.

"Mother Courage and Her Children" @ 8 p.m. Located in the Indoor Theater in the SPARC building. A show will play every night until May 2, 2015.

CAS (Critical Academic Skills) Workshop "Stay Involved" @ 1-2 p.m. Instructor J. Davies. Located at the SS Building in room 151.

April 29

"Career Day" @ 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Located in Campus Center.

April 30

"Noche de Cultura" (Night of Culture) @ 6-9 p.m. Located in FA building room 30. Aztec dancers, Folklorico dancers, singers, Hawaii dancers, speaker. Tickets \$5 adults, \$ 3 children 12 and younger.

May 2-3

"Relay for Life of Bakersfield" Located at the Kern County Fair Grounds.

May 4

CAS (Critical Academic Skills) Workshop "Preventing Plagiarism" @ 11 a.m.-noon. Instructor T. Meier. Located at the SS Building in room 151.

May 5

CAS (Critical Academic Skills) Workshop "Test Taking Tips" @ 1-2 p.m. Instructor C. Schaefer. Located at the SS Building in room 151.

BC students show off their art

By Rhiannon Stroberg
Reporter

The Bakersfield College art students had the chance to showcase their artwork on April 9 in the Wylie and May Louise Jones Gallery located in the BC library.

The gallery ranged from plenty of different artistic abilities, from sculptures to photographs to actual drawings and paintings, the artwork was both impressive and satisfying to the eye. BC Beginning Art student, Jake Aldrade expressed hopes of one day having his art in the gallery.

"I'd love to have my art in the gallery," Aldrade said, "I can take pictures, but not paint like this."

Digital Arts student Alex Aguilar stated that he only attended the gallery because his brother has two paintings in it and he was there to show support for him.

Art gallery assistant Michaela Forbus was shocked to see how many people attended the gallery.

"This has been the most highly attended opening I have seen so far," Forbus expressed. Forbus is also a BC student in the Advanced Photography class.

Art director Tom Betthausen stated that The Jones Gallery has an exhibition of recent work made by Bakersfield College's art students at the end of each academic year usually in April. Betthausen also stated that students could submit their work online usually starting in March.

"Any current Bakersfield College student that has taken any art class in the last three semesters is encouraged to submit work as long as it was produced as part of a BC art class," Betthausen said, "We encourage students to submit up to three works in as many mediums as possible (photography, digital works, sculptures, drawings, paintings, etc)."

Betthausen also stated that the gallery usually receives 200-300 submissions and have a guest judge pick 40-50 projects to display in a gallery environment.

"This is the end of my first year being a curator and managing the Jones Gallery, which I will continue to do next year, so far it has been a fantastic opportunity for me to connect with other artists from Los Angeles to the East Coast to Alaska," ex-



Above: Beginning art student Kevin Gardner closely observes the painting "Technicolor" painted by Sammy Moncada.

Left: A ceramic sculpture titled "Deku Mask" by artist Melinda Stumph.



PHOTOS BY RHIANNON STROBERG / THE RIP

BC student Meghan Copeland poses with a picture she took for her black and white photography class for the Art Student Exhibition.

pressed Betthausen. "It has been a great way to expose ambitious BC art students to the work of young contemporary artists from outside Kern County as well as giving them experience by showing their work in a gallery environment." Betthausen believes the artwork exposed in the Jones Gallery for the BC Art Student Exhibition is potentially inspiring for both older artists and

non-art students alike. "It reflects the potential of the ambitious students in our art department, the dedication of their instructors, and the unique inspiration and drive that only artists at the beginning of their academic careers have access to."

The Jones Gallery will be showing more of the Art Student Exhibit every Thursday up until May 7.

Bakersfield College student helps Romania

By Elizabeth Castillo
Editor in Chief

Bakersfield College student Nannette Gonzalez saw a need for a legitimate foster care and adoption program in Romania. With a little extra faith, she turned this social issue into a solution for children across Romania.

"Our non-profit rescues abandoned babies from being institutionalized and places them in a loving, nurturing home," she said.

Father's Care Ministry began as an idea in 1994 and came to fruition in 1997. Gonzalez first visited Romania on a two-week outreach but ultimately lived in the country for 17 years. She found the country to be very bleak, but felt an urge to stay because of the children in need.

"I saw enough sadness to last a lifetime," she said. "In Romania, gray, black and brown were the only colors I saw, but the kids drew me to that country."

Since its inception, according to Gonzalez, the organization has saved hundreds of children from government-run orphanages and facilities. One of the many things that struck Gonzalez was how malnourished the children were. She said that children were usually three years older than they looked, because of malnutrition. To combat the malnutrition, Gonzalez said she would give them milk that was composed of 26 percent fat.

"The kids were so skinny," she

said. Gonzalez, 56, said that she began the non-profit with hesitation. She knew it would be a tremendous undertaking but relied on a higher power to propel her forward.

"I knew it would take a lot logistically, to learn the culture and the language," she said. "God spoke to my heart, and I felt a divine appointment."

Father's Care Ministry is based out of the U.S., but Gonzalez also had to register it as a non-government organization overseas. The organization originally helped facilitate adoptions of Romanian children all around the world. Children found homes in the U.S., Ireland, Spain and England. Some children were adopted and grew up in Bakersfield. While the international adoptions were very successful, ultimately they became illegal.

"The European Union found that people were selling kids in the black market," Gonzalez said. "Now there are no international adoptions."

Although Gonzalez's organization can no longer work with international adoptions, she said that Father's Care Ministry still works with finding foster and adoptive families within Romania. The organization also helps children, with disabilities and illnesses, receive proper medical treatment. Gonzalez said that children from Romania come to the U.S. on medical visas and are given treatment at the UCLA medical center and Rady Chil-

children's hospital in San Diego.

Gonzalez recounted the story of a Romanian child with Apert syndrome. Her condition became life threatening and she was able to receive surgery at Rady Children's hospital for free. The surgery typically costs \$500,000.

"I love the U.S.," Gonzalez said. "There are so many resources and we give back. Many of my kids would've ended up dead without [help from] California doctors."

In another instance, a pediatric neurosurgeon also made four trips to Romania with his medical team to continue treatment on children there.

Father's Care Ministry has helped children with Spina Bifida and Cerebral Palsy receive proper treatment.

In Romania, nationals run the organization, which is what Gonzalez ultimately hoped to achieve. Although Gonzalez currently lives in Bakersfield, she still makes trips to Romania. Her organization is currently raising funds to send foster children and their foster parents to a summer camp in the Carpathian Mountains.

She hopes to raise \$10,000 as Father's Care Ministry relies solely on donations. Her last trip to Romania was in October of 2014 and she will return in July. Gonzalez also accepts volunteers and loves involvement from people around the world. She worked with a volunteer from Australia and even brought a CSUB graduate to Romania as



JAVIER VALDES / THE RIP

Nannette Gonzalez is the president of Father's Care Ministry, a non-profit organization established in 1997.

well.

Although Gonzalez said it was difficult to return to Bakersfield after 17 years abroad, the move was necessary for her to continue to pursue her dreams.

Gonzalez is a nursing major at BC and hopes to eventually work for Doctors without Borders as a missionary nurse. She even started her education while still abroad.

"I was living in Romania and took classes at BC online," she said. "I did English 1A online while I was in Romania."

Gonzalez plans to graduate in 2018 and wants to work in Mexico, Ethiopia, and South America to utilize her Spanish-speaking skills.

Gonzalez is fluent in Spanish although she now feels that she

speaks Romanian better. To keep her verbal skills strong, Gonzalez found Romanian individuals living in Bakersfield. When she visits the yarn store where they work, she loves to speak Romanian.

Gonzalez attends BC full time and works part time in the Office of Student Life.

Although attending college is difficult, Gonzalez refuses to give up on her dreams. She said that individuals shouldn't let fear stop them from achieving success.

"In America, you could follow your dreams," she said. "It's our fear that keeps us from doing the extraordinary."

To learn more about Father's Care Ministry or to get involved, visit fatherscareministry.com.

BC hosts a speech by Nick Belardes

By Trina Goree
Reporter

The pitfalls of modern society spark conversation amongst Bakersfield College students. Meth, prostitution, human trafficking, and childhood homelessness were a few of the themes featured in author Nick Belardes' speech.

Nick Belardes' "Your Place in Words: The Individual's New Responsibility in the Southern Central Valley Through History and Writing" speech was held on April 9 in the Robert F. Kennedy lecture hall at BC's Delano Campus. Belardes' lecture was part of the Cultural Historical Awareness Program series.

Belardes spoke of the dark, and not so underground, world of Bakersfield. Belardes stated, "I wanted to write about the unsayable."

During the speech, Belardes spoke about an infamous district attorney crime trial that happened some years ago in Bakersfield that dealt with sex, drugs, and cover-ups.

Belardes then asked, "What is our personal Iraq war in the Valley?"

Belardes responded with meth in Oildale, farming pollution, and gang activity in the San Joaquin Valley.

Belardes also mentioned, "Most of us in impoverished communities cling to mediocrity."

Belardes went on to discuss a story about an individual from Bakersfield that was involved with selling his body on the internet, doing porn, then disappeared somewhere in Mexico. Belardes offered the idea that the individual was a product of the corrupted elite in Bakersfield.

The speech was Belardes exposing issues that too often go unsaid and underrepresented.

"How do you find your voice in literature?" a BC Delano campus student asked.

Belardes responded, "Put effort into college, into your writing." Going on to mention that he didn't apply himself in high school, Belardes continued sharing with students to be present and aware of the world around them. Students should get outside of Delano and their usual friend group. Also being an author, Belardes encouraged students to read everything.

A last piece of advice Belardes offered was to write your opinion.

"Write your opinion even if to yourself," said Belardes.

Belardes has also taught at BC. He understands the difficulties students face in finding their voice but urged all students to say the unsayable.

Another BC student in the audience mentioned it is one thing to say the unsayable but how do you do the undoable? Belardes responded, "inspire people by speaking, protest, brave society by saying something."

Maria Hernandez, Delano Campus Tutoring Center tutor, enjoyed the speech and even referred to the speech as being a type of puzzle. Hernandez felt the speech took different topics and ideas that people believe typically happen in other places and connected them to the central valley.

"I felt very positive from the amount of information that was presented during the speech," mentioned Hernandez.

Hernandez agreed when asked if the information during the Belardes speech was useful.

"It is useful because us students get exposed to topics that you don't know happen in the central valley," she said.



MARCUS CASTRO / THE RIP

Vice president-elect Janell Orozco continues the school year as a senator for BCSGA.

ELECTION: Student body has chosen BCSGA elected officials for the 2015-2016 school year

Continued from Page 1

to bring on campus include utilizing a BC alumni network more effectively for internship and volunteer opportunities and creating a student life app.

He also hopes to bring a farmer's market to campus.

"It's something that SGA has talked a lot about lately, but no one is really pushing for," he said. "With ag being important to

Kern County, [a farmer's market] just makes sense to have."

Fowler was originally a fire technology major, but said he's always had a passion for history and politics.

Now, he is leaning more toward politics with majoring in political science with an emphasis in domestic policy.

Although Fowler has a hefty list of initiatives he hopes to im-

plement during his term, he is also confident regarding the rest of the executive board and the senators elected to serve next year alongside him.

"I can't wait to start working for the students," he said. "This is going to be a great year and a great team," he said.

"We're all really excited to get going."

BC newspaper wins at journalism conference

Bakersfield College's student newspaper, The Renegade Rip, was honored with two general excellence awards in the past few weeks.

The Rip was notified by the California Newspaper Publishers Association that it was a Blue Ribbon Finalist in judging for the top community college newspapers in the state for 2014. That designation means The Rip placed among the top four newspapers in the state but did not get first or second.

Making the final four of the CNPA general excellence contest is very tough to do considering there are more than 50 community college newspapers in the state. The Rip has been in the top four three of the past four years, and in 2011 was the overall winner. The Rip also earned general excellence for print at the Journalism Association of Community Colleges awards banquet

April 11 at the state conference in Sacramento. Only 10 newspapers met the criteria needed to earn the general excellence designation, which is based on story content and editing, photojournalism and page design.

In individual awards, Alisia Sanchez, a reporter/photographer on the fall 2014 staff, earned third place for video journalism with a story on a BC maintenance worker. The multimedia show can be viewed on the student newspaper website at therip.com.

Also, current editor in chief, Elizabeth Castillo, recently was named the winner of the \$1,000 California Community College Public Relations Organization writing contest, which is a statewide contest in which entrants turned in a published work. That work is judged, and a winner is determined. Castillo's winning effort was a news story on im-

migration published in The Rip last fall. The journalism program will also be well represented in graduates this semester.

At least eight journalism majors will be receiving their two-year degrees with most of them transferring to four-year colleges.



JAVIER VALDES / THE RIP

Trish Castro, a business marketing major at BC, adjusts artwork at the shop she owns.

STUDENT: BC student owns and operates art gallery and gift shop at the East Hills Mall

Continued from Page 1

great]. I don't think they know it, but I got a lot of encouragement from them."

Castro went back to BC in fall of 2012 after a 10-year break to gain knowledge on marketing and business management.

"I mainly went back just to know how to [run a store better.] I had a storefront 10 years ago, and I didn't really know what I was doing. I knew what I wanted to do but I didn't know how to do it," Castro said.

With this new opportunity, Castro has made Elder and Oak a store filled with handmade goods and a spot to relax and maybe get some work done.

"It's a functional art gallery, a metaphysical shop, a comfortable place to have a cup of coffee or tea, sit down read a book and maybe even get some homework done," Castro said. "And about 80% of what is in the store is handmade, or painted by some-

one. Not all of it is from me. But I do jewelry, handmade incense, incense holders, candle holders, I also have my glassware from thrift stores or yard sales, because no one just wants a mismatched wine glass so I take them and add the palmer clay to them and make them into something new and unique. It becomes usable art."

All of the items for sale are fairly priced and the local artists that are housed in Elder and Oak get a 70/30 split in their favor.

"I'm fostering local artists at the best consignment rate in town, 70/30 split in the way of the artist," Castro said. "We also have a table out at First Friday every month. I let artists come out with me and the commission deal that goes on in the store, is obsolete out there. Whatever they sell at First Friday, goes all to them. I just let them use and hang out in my spot."

Castro not only wants to help

out local artists, but also wants to make up for what the other stores here in town lack.

"There is only one metaphysical shop in Bakersfield and the new owner who took it over changed it," she said. "The changes that were made not everyone was comfortable with and since they were the only shop in town that was the only place to go. So I opened this to kind of offset what they changed."

Castro said overall she just wants to help out local artists, have their work seen and possibly sold, as well as helping artists with internships and a place to work.

Elder and Oak is located next to the old Mervyns in the East Hills Mall and is open from 11 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. on weekdays and 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. on weekends and is closed Sundays and Mondays. They also do a 10 percent off deal for checking in on Facebook.

SPEAKER: Daniel Ellsberg gives a lecture to a packed theater

Continued from Page 1

in Nixon's case almost exclusively against me, should not have been tried because they were working for the president."

Even though Ellsberg focused most of his lecture bringing awareness to the Fourth Amendment, he did defend the legitimacy of the United States constitution and the oath taken by government officials, "The oath is not to secrecy, and in our country it is not to the president...it's an oath to defend and support the constitution of the United States," he stated.

Ellsberg dedicated the final piece of his lecture to Edward Snowden; a National Security Agency sub-contractor notably known for leaking top-secret information that disclosed intrusive spying practices used on American citizens to various media outlets.

Ellsberg defended Snowden amid the fact that, unlike Ellsberg himself, he didn't stand to face trial in the U.S. and instead left the country to seek asylum in Russia.

"Snowden, I have no doubt, was in danger when they were looking for him. He could not have put that information out and explained it, as he has been doing it for the past two years, had he stayed in his country because he would be in an isolation cell like Chel-

sea Manning and he would be there for the rest of his life, he would never get out," said Ellsberg.

Ellsberg continued to defend Snowden explaining the faults of the Espionage Act and how it prevents whistleblowers, like both himself and Snowden, from presenting reason for their acts, no evidence nor testimony would be allowed to be disclosed to a jury.

"A whistleblower can not get...a fair trial under the Espionage Act", Ellsberg said, "I didn't have one either, but I got out on a miracle of exposure of the president's crimes against me."

Ellsberg concluded his lecture promoting the need for people such as Snowden and encouraging government officials to speak up. "If there would have been any Edward Snowdens in the high circles of the American governments in 2001, 2002 and early 2003 to reveal what many people knew was a secret of deceptive, aggressive and hopeless invasion...we wouldn't have killed a couple of million Iraqis and several thousand of Americans," Ellsberg said.

Ellsberg was dismissed to a cheering crowd and a standing ovation.

He remained on stage to answer questions for the audience.



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Kubanda stops at BC while on tour

By Amber Hayden
Online Editor

The sounds of Sam Smith's song "Stay with Me" could be heard around campus on April 13 just outside of the Campus Center.

But it wasn't coming from a CD over the speakers that were set up, it was coming from solo artist Gabe Kubanda who had his equipment set up to perform for Bakersfield College students.

Kubanda is currently on tour with Epic Proportions Tour alongside two other bands, Far Away Stables and Captain Squeegee.

"Every tour, we email all the schools and let them know who the new band is that will be touring with me that year, and whichever school calls back, gets the show," Kubanda said.

Before realizing the guitar was the right instrument to play, Kubanda tried the piano and the drums first, but like many, he found they weren't the right fit for him.

When he picked up his guitar and started to sing, that's when it clicked it was the right fit for him. Kubanda commented, "It just clicked, and I loved it!"

With four days left of the cur-

rent tour, Kubanda comments that he never saw himself being where he is now when he started singing, performing, and writing his own songs at the age of 16.

"I was hoping that I'd join a band in high school, myself and three buddies would rock the world. Like the Beatles or the Rolling Stones, or even U2," said Kubanda.

Being on the tour has been easier with the bands because of how driven and talented each of them are according to Kubanda. Despite the hard work each band goes through to perform, everyone still manages to be laid back with one another.

"Both of the bands have also been acting as my backing band, so it's been really fun jamming with all of them," commented Kubanda.

The tour will make its way back through California in the fall and Kubanda hopes to see some of the people he has met during the spring tour, at his fall tour.

If you want to check out any of Gabe Kubanda's music, see where he will be performing next, or to purchase any of his merchandise you can follow him on Facebook or go to gabekubanda.com.



MARCUS CASTRO / THE RIP

Gabe Kubanda sings outside of the cafeteria at Bakersfield College on April 13. He is a solo artist that is currently on the Epic Proportions Tour with Captain Squeegee and Far Away Stables which ends on April 24.

Renegade Talks event

By Victoria Miller
Reporter

On April 9, Bakersfield College once again hosted the Renegade Talks event. Inspired by TED talks, Renegade Talks is a variety of 10-minute presentations with positive messages. This event consisted of six BC faculty members who shared their insights and research on multiple topics.

Lisa Harding, a faculty member of BC since 2008, was the first speaker of the night. Harding's talk centered on why being a Renegade matters. She related this to her past experience in Romania, walking in public with a child from an orphanage with cerebral palsy.

After seeing how the child was affected by cruel and kind gestures of strangers directed toward him, Harding noticed the kind gestures made the child feel like he mattered.

Harding said that as Renegades, "We wear armor as a set of principles." She then encouraged the audience to have a positive attitude because negative words and attitudes can hurt others and make them feel like they don't matter.

BC Information Services Director Todd Coston then took the stage to speak about the benefits of laughter. Coston explained that studies show a person's arteries dilate during and after laughter, increasing blood flow, and the opposite happens when a person is under mental stress.

Some suggestions Coston gave for laughing are surrounding yourself with positive people and watching funny movies and reading funny books.

Oliver Rosales, an associate history professor at BC, spoke about the importance of history and remembering the Civil Rights movement. He explained how he researched his personal history, as well as Bakersfield's history and its movement for social justice.

According to Rosales, "History only matters if you can see yourself in historical records." He then ended with "I encourage you to take it one step further and find yourself and family in public records."

Talita Pruett, a communication professor at BC, spoke about resilience and culture.

She gave a demonstration with a rock, an eggshell, and a stress ball. Pruett used these items to explain how emotional resilience, like the stress-ball, doesn't deflect emotional conflict like the rock, or crush under emotional stress like the eggshell.

Pruett then brought up recent incidents where cultures and individuals exemplified emotional resilience and left with saying, "I challenge you to practice this mindset."

BC biology professor Joe Saldivar discussed obesity



VICTORIA MILLER / THE RIP

Talita Pruett gives a demonstration on emotional resilience during the Renegade Talks event at Bakersfield College on April 9. Pruett is a communications professor at BC.

and the possible causes. Saldivar mentioned some statistics, such as one in five children and one in three adults in the U.S. suffer from obesity. He then went through the possible causes of obesity, including fast food restaurants and unhealthy additives.

Saldivar concluded they were not the cause and that our society should remember moderation when it comes to eating.

Andrea Thorson ended the event speaking about the importance of positive language. She began with the phrase "Hey, you guys" and said it marginalizes women. She went on, "If women aren't even deserving of being involved in language, how can women expect to be treated equally in life?"

The next phrase she discussed that is commonly used is "boys will be boys." Thorson said this is an oversimplification and an unconscious bias toward boys. She said it encourages a dismissal of often violent or rude behavior. Thorson continued and said our society teaches boys to be ashamed of being sensitive, emotional, nurturing, and tender and she said this could be why suicide is the leading cause of death among young men.

She ended with encouraging the audience to be aware of our language and said, "Language is the most powerful tool we will ever possess, it is stronger than guns."

To find more information on Renegade Talks and when the next event will be, search www.bakersfieldcollege.edu/employees/renegade-talks.

Mallory is in need of donations

By Marcus Castro
Reporter

The Moran family is getting help and still needs more for their youngest child while she fights Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia Type B.

Mallory's Miracles is two-year-old Mallory Moran's journey through her fight.

Moran's father, Tom Moran, is a Bakersfield College American Sign Language instructor and is the Department Chair of Foreign Language. Tom's wife, Israel Moran, was a preschool teacher of the deaf and hard of hearing at the Richardson Center, but she had to take time off in order to take care of Mallory.

By taking time off her job, the Moran family has lost a substantial amount of income. Being very prideful, Tom has not asked for any help from his colleagues or friends. His friends took it upon themselves to start a funding program on GoFundMe.com to help support the family.

Their insurance covers most costs that the Children's Hospital Pediatric Oncology Care unit in Los Angeles is charging for Mallory's procedures. What are not being covered are the hidden costs that come along with Mallory's condition. These costs are of fuel, food, and possible hotel expenses as they have to travel to LA often.

Larry Littleton, Bonnie Sherwood and Mala Po, the friends who started the funding program, said on the funding site, "We all understand how equally difficult it can be to ask someone to lend a hand, much less, to accept the offer of helping hands. This request is coming from us, friends of the Moran family. We requested that they let us do something to lend a hand. Everyone appreciates this dilemma."

On April 20, \$13,580 had been raised out of the \$20,000 that is needed. This money has been accumulated over 28 days from 159 donations. To donate, go to www.Gofundme.com/pjm30.

Mallory's journey continues as she constantly has to be treated at the Children's Hospital. Tom updates Mallory's followers on what is going on nearly every week. His updates are very detailed updates of exactly what Mallory is doing and what the family is doing. To see what is currently happening in Mallory and her family's journey, go to www.Carepages.com/carepages/mallorymiracles.com.

A BC writing contest puts students into the future

By Marcus Castro
Reporter

The Bakersfield College Writing Center is hosting a creative writing contest this semester, and the deadline for entries is approaching quickly.

The topic of the contest is "The Future." Entries are allowed to be about any time in the future as long as it pertains to the future. Each student is allowed only one entry.

Students who want to enter in the contest must submit their entries by noon on May 1 in the BC Writing Center. The Writing Center has been accepting entries since February.

Kristen Watts, the instructional assistant in the writing lab and the person in charge of the contest, said, "Only a

handful of people have turned it in. People tend to wait until the last minute."

The contest has been going on for about three years now. It used to be a monthly contest, but since Watts has taken over the contest, it has been a single contest for each semester. Watts asserts that it gives the writers more time to think and create exactly what they want.

"I want to get students to try, and I want creative writing to be a bigger part of the BC community," said Watts.

The Writing Center will be accepting short stories, poetry, dramatic works, and prose for the contest. The maximum word count for the entries is 1,000.

There will be a first, second, and third place. All three places will have their work published in the Fall 2015 edition of The Roughneck Review. First place will win

a gift bag with gift cards, a T-shirt and more.

Entries must have the students' ID number and contact phone number on the entry. The students' name must not be included on the paper as it is an anonymous entry. Submissions by email are not accepted.

A three-person committee will judge the entries. These judges are all going to be people that are in the BC community.

The criteria for the judging are whether the story is engaging, the quality of the plot and development, use of descriptive elements, good grammar, and good mechanics.

Feedback will not be given back on any of the submissions.

Winners will be announced through the BC Writing Center's Facebook page.

Teen finds a way to give back

By Rhiannon Stroberg
Reporter

Bakersfield teen Madison Ridley, 16, has taken time out of her busy schedule as a high school student to start Maddie's Messages, a charity group in which Ridley herself makes blankets for cancer patients.

"I have had a multitude of family members and friends who have had or currently have cancer," Ridley said. "Both of my grandmothers had cancer. One lost her fight with lung cancer, while the other one beat her battle with breast cancer. My grandfather also won his fight with colon cancer a few years back."

Ridley stated that she was inspired to start Maddie's Messages at the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership (HOBY) conference last summer.

She remembered watching her grandmother go through the stages of chemotherapy for her breast cancer, which involved being very cold, even if it was warm outside. During one of her chemo treatments, her grandmother received a fleece blanket and was so happy to have received one. So when HOBY asked Ridley what she wanted to do to give back to the community, she immediately remembered how happy her grandmother was to receive her blanket. Ridley then decided to make blankets for cancer patients.

"I also wanted to give words of inspiration and hope to those receiving the blankets, and that is where I got the name 'Maddie's Messages,'" Ridley said.

Ridley's mother, Tiffani Alvidrez, 45, a counselor at Bakersfield High School where Ridley attends as a junior, claimed that she was nervous for a split second after hearing what Ridley wanted to do. Alvidrez stated that Ridley was just getting in the car after finishing her leadership seminar at HOBY when she expressed to her mother that she wanted to start a "charity for chemo patients where I make them blankets."

"I thought to myself, 'That's a huge undertaking and definitely not cheap!'" said Alvidrez. "I was worried about how much it would cost to start things up but then the proud feeling set in and I thought it really didn't matter how much it cost moneywise and time wise. Maddie



Madison Ridley smiles as she folds the Star Wars blanket she has made for a cancer patient.

wanted to make a difference and that's all that matters. She has a very big heart."

At first, Ridley was only making them for delivery to cancer treatment facilities, especially the one where her grandmother was treated. "I started her Facebook page, 'Maddie's Messages', to let people know that there are kids out there making a difference and thinking beyond themselves," Alvidrez expressed.

"Due to her page, we started getting requests from people for blankets for people who had other ailments that required extensive treatment: severe rheumatoid arthritis, pediatric burns, lupus, etc. She'll make a blanket for just about anyone who asks that is in need."

They started out as blankets for cancer patients, but Ridley received other requests for people who have serious illnesses or conditions.

"I have made blankets for people with diabetes, heart conditions, and kids who are in the pediatric burn center," Ridley explained.

Ridley began her campaign in June of 2014 with the help of her surviving grandmother and her mother.

"We had to wait for my mom to return from a trip to Oregon so she

could show us how to make the blankets," Alvidrez stated. "She has been sewing for over 50 years so her input was vital."

To date, Ridley has made nearly 100 blankets. Although Ridley is unable to personally give the blankets to the patients when she drops the blankets off, she did run into a woman who was leaving her chemotherapy treatment carrying one of Ridley's blankets with her. The woman immediately recognized Ridley and her grandmother and ran up to them both and thanked them.

"She told me with tears in her eyes, how much she loved her blanket and how it keeps her warm during her treatments," said Ridley. "That was probably the most impactful thing that I have ever witnessed, and it made me realize how much the blankets affect the patients."

"Maddie has always had a big heart and has been aware of people's struggles. She has wanted to do things to help others but didn't have a clear direction beyond Linkcrew at BHS," Alvidrez stated. "When my mom fought breast cancer, it was tough sitting by knowing there was little we could do to ease her pain. This is almost like Maddie's way of a little bit of control over that helpless feeling we had. It isn't much,

but she likes letting others know [that] she cares about them."

Ridley has received pictures of people who were specially requested to receive a blanket giving their thanks while wearing the blanket. She has also received "thank you" letters in the mail. Among the success of Maddie's Messages, Ridley has received the President's Volunteer Service Award and was honored to be an American Red Cross Real Youth Hero for Kern County. Rotary of North Bakersfield also presented her with the Paul Harris award.

"I honestly am hoping to give at least 200 total blankets to patients in the future," Ridley explained. "I also want to inspire other teenagers to get more involved in the community to show that my generation isn't just about teenagers who like to get drunk and use drugs, but [to show] that we are the future leaders of this country and world in the future."

"Maddie is an old soul," gushed Alvidrez. "She has always been wise, but could be very silly when she wants to. She has never been caught up in doing what the crowd does. She has all sorts of friends, but her academics and extra-curricular activities come before anything else. She has more focus on her future and how to get to her goals than the average bear."

After high school, Ridley plans on attending a four-year university in close proximity, either CSUB or Cal-Poly Pomona, in which she will be studying chemical and petroleum engineering.

"As far as Maddie's Messages is concerned, I believe she will try to pass the torch to younger kids at BHS so they can keep the blankets coming," Alvidrez stated. "I don't see her losing her focus on it any time soon. If she remains at CSUB, she will probably keep it going from home. She started the campaign out of love, and I don't think she'll let it fade away."

Ridley stated that her goal for the future is to finish her college degree.

"We're just very proud of all the sacrifices Maddie has made to keep her academics, mostly AP and Honors classes with A's, her extra-curricular responsibilities, swim team, robotics club, and band, and blanket making balanced. She is one of a kind," said Alvidrez.

BC to host career day

By Elka Wyatt
Reporter

Career Day is coming to Bakersfield College on Wednesday, April 29 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Campus Center.

Over a hundred employers will be here to recruit people for job openings and to let people know what careers are available within their companies. Bolt-house, Kern Medical Center and Apple Inc. just to name a few.

"Career Day is geared toward BC students and alumni, but it is open to the public," said Denise Crawford, Job Development Specialist for the Workability Program at BC.

Not very many people will be hired that day but it is a great opportunity to network, and since most jobs are obtained through networking, this is the ideal chance to meet these people and make those contacts.

To prepare students for what the employers will expect in prospective employees, Job Placement and Workability have organized two workshops to be held Wednesday, April 22 from 3:30 -5:00 p.m. in SS151 and again on Monday, April 27 at 1:00-2:30 p.m. in SS151 as well.

In the workshops, students will learn what it is that employers are looking for and what they are not looking for.

For instance, Crawford said that the number one problem the employers have is people who do not come dressed to find work.

"Some people show up in pajama bottoms," said Crawford.

Crawford gave some tips on what will be discussed in the workshops. Dressing as if you will be interviewed on the spot, avoiding clothing that is too revealing, such as halter-tops, miniskirts and shorts. Try not to dress too casual. Avoid wearing denim. You only make a first impression once, so dress to impress.

Greeting an employer by making eye contact, shaking hands and introducing yourself in a clear voice will make a good impression on them, and it also helps to have a good attitude. Don't badmouth your current or former employer. Don't talk too much and keep your personal life personal. Stick to the basics: Your name, what job you are interested in and how you qualify for that job. Present your resume, tell them why you want to work with them. Show enthusiasm and don't be afraid to ask questions.

Don't talk or text on your cell phone when approaching an employer, and don't be rude in any way to anyone.

A job fair is not a group activity, it is just between you and the employer, and it's not a good idea to bring kids either.

It is a good idea, however, to know a little about the employer and about the positions they have available before you talk to them, and bring several copies of your resume just in case there is a position you are qualified for.

Don't just take the free stuff, talk to the employer. If you are not interested in that employer, move on to the next one. But if you are interested, don't forget to put your best foot forward and introduce yourself. Get their business card and follow up with them.

There will be a list of employers at the front, so you will have an idea of what is out there and you can create a game plan of which booths you want to visit.

Showing up early, not waiting until the last minute will tell employers you are serious about finding a job.

Also, you might not want to ask when your first raise or vacation will be.

Career Day is presented by BC Job Placement and Workability and sponsored by Kern County Broadcaster's Association

"Employers like to come to Career Day because of the great service we provide," said Rudy Gutierrez, Job Development Specialist for the Workability program, and the person in charge of hiring students to work on Career Day.

Don't forget to attend a Career Day Workshop, bring several copies of your resume and dress your best.

ASL students display sign skills at BC event

The American Sign Language faculty held the Silent Saturday event at the Bakersfield College cafeteria on April 18. The ASL 1 students spent a few hours integrating into the local deaf community. The students spent time bettering their language skills by participating in workshops and activities that would help them advance their ability and further their language knowledge. The Silent Saturday event is held annually as it aims to immerse the ASL students with the deaf community and put to use the skills learned in the classroom.

JAVIER VALDES / THE RIP

Right: Tyler Anglim and Priscilla Lencioni participated in the Silent Saturday event at Bakersfield College on April 18.



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Teleconference talks on B.A.'s

By Elizabeth Castillo
Editor in Chief

The California Community Colleges Chancellor Brice W. Harris led a teleconference to further discuss the different pilot bachelor degrees available for community colleges and other information regarding community colleges across the state.

Twelve California community colleges—Bakersfield College among them—have been approved to offer bachelor's degrees in different areas of specialty.

Some of the majors include mortuary science, dental hygiene, airframe manufacturing technology and industrial automation.

The colleges chosen to offer programs were selected from 34 applications. The programs must be running by the 2017-2018 academic year but can begin as

early as fall of 2015.

"We're very excited about this new wave of programs," Harris said.

For students planning to transfer to a four-year school, Harris said that students who complete California State University requirements or Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum can plan on guaranteed admission to nine historically black colleges and universities across the country.

Some of the schools include Bennett College, Dillard University and Wiley College. Certain majors may still require other pre-requisites, according to a California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office press release.

Harris also discussed changes being made to Board of Governors fee waiver approvals. The changes will go into effect in Fall of 2016.

Students must sustain a GPA of 2.0 or higher and complete at least half of their intended coursework. Students who do not meet these guidelines lose BOG waiver eligibility but are able to have their waivers reinstated if they follow the guidelines in the future.

45 percent of students enrolled in California community colleges rely on BOG fee waivers.

According to Harris, there has been a statewide decline in enrollment at community colleges and schools are facing limited resources.

"It's been a tough several years for all of you as students," Harris said.

To learn more about BOG fee waiver changes, bachelor's degrees available at community colleges and transfer requirements for certain historically black colleges, visit california-communitycolleges.cccco.edu

Staff Editorial Obsolete building gets a lift

In the summer of 2008, Bakersfield College's weight room, along with many other parts of the facilities on campus, were featured in a McDonald's ad as a backdrop during the Beijing Summer Olympics.

Since then, that weight room has yet to change...until a proposition was made last year by BC head football coach Jeff Chudy.

The projected \$200,000 face-lift, which is expected to be completed "Fall 2015 [if not, sooner]," said Athletic Director Sandi Taylor, takes the weight room renovation another step in the right direction for BC.

Although it seems quite expensive, the funding for it is nearly completed and production is approximately a 12-14 week process.

For a campus that has been around for just over 100 years, it's in pretty fair shape, but quite outdated in certain aspects.

"We're making a concerted effort to upgrade and modernize our facilities and this is one part of that," Taylor said.

This will revamp and benefit Bakersfield College in many ways.

For one, the weight room is currently congested with equipment that only a prison would find worthy. Getting 50 or more football players trying to work out at the same time, or a PE class trying to work out together, makes it really difficult.

Secondly, it's another positive outlook on BC Athletics.

We have some of the nicer stadiums at the community college level - but when you go in-depth and where all the hard work goes in, it lacks some attention.

Recruiting plays a huge role, too. As unfortunate as it sounds, players nowadays care about the details. You know -- the jerseys, the weight rooms, all the small things that can change a person's commitment. However, a state-of-the-art weight room and equipment makes it hard to refuse coming to BC.

There will be some shifting to get the weight room operating around June 1.

The current location of the Fitness Center, located in the northern part of the athletics department across the women's locker room, will become the new location for the weight room, while the current location of the weight room on the southern part of the athletics department across the men's locker room, will become the new home to the Fitness Center.

This will give the future home of the weight room more breathing room and space to function due to the amount of space the Fitness Center currently has.

For athletics, we could be seeing more changes as well forthcoming.

"The other projects we're talking about is a facelift on the practice fields, and down the road the stadium and track...it's in discussion but nothing set," Taylor added.

With those plans, and with the new outdoor theater intact and a modernized indoor theater, BC continues to put forth effort into the state of the campus. Before and the after pictures of the weight room are on therip.com

Tattoos ink deeper than skin

By Amber Hayden
Online Editor

When we see people in society with tattoos there is always a stigma in our minds that "the person is all kinds of bad."

But the thing is, this is not the case with most people out there with tattoos. If I include myself with the many people I know with tattoos, we are all fairly normal, all things considered.

Many of my friends are tattoo artists and we have sat and discussed how funny it is that people think we are horrible beings or even gang members.

Have any of you with that thinking ever thought to come up to us and actually talk to us? Or even thought maybe, just maybe, we are normal people looking for a way to express ourselves.

I've always found tattoos to be a form of expression, and also an art form. The art being what the tattoo artist creates and the expression is how every tattoo is unique in its own way.

People have a right to explore themselves and express who they are in their own way. So why is it when someone has a tattoo we automatically get tossed in to this group of trouble-makers?

I've watched as people will purposely take a wide step around someone who has a full sleeve tattoo on his arm simply because they are so afraid of us.

We aren't horrible people; we work just like everyone else. But most of the time you would never be able to tell, because in a working environment we opt to cover the tattoos out of respect for our employers.

Who's to say when you go in to see your doctor or your lawyer that he doesn't have tattoos, but they are just covered up so their patients or clients don't see them.

My suggestion to those that are judgmental of us with tattoos, look inside yourself, because the only one who is even close to doing something wrong is you, for judging us.

I've never had any problems talking to anyone about any of the 10 tattoos I have simply because I express myself in them, and all of them have meaning to me.

Yeah they cost a pretty penny when I go to get a tattoo. Sure, but that is only because I'm paying for someone I trust to tattoo a permanent mark on me that I get to live with. I'm not going up to some random person and saying, "Hey you come with me I'm going to force you into this."

Not once have I ever done that, and I don't think it would really work out. If someone gets a tattoo then it is on them and you can bet I'll be asking why, just to see if it holds some deep meaning to them.

Society is forever changing it seems, and people need to realize that what we do as a person doesn't affect how we treat people.

There are far worse people out there than those with tattoos, myself included for society to focus on.

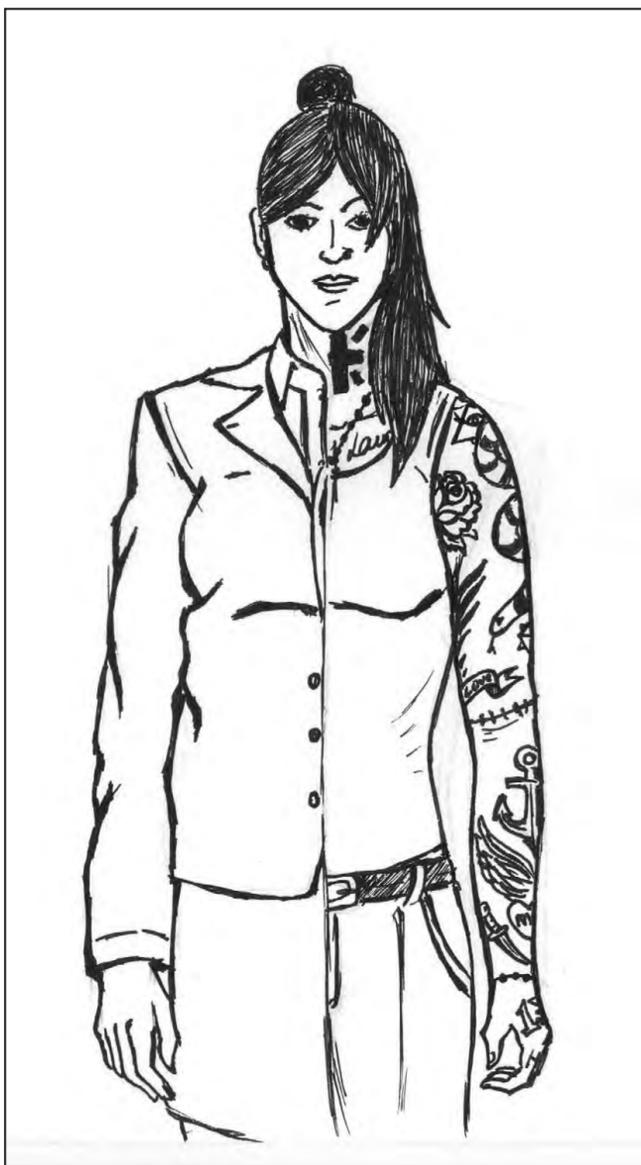


ILLUSTRATION BY HUGO JAUREGUI / THE RIP

By Javier Valdes
Reporter

I have never understood the hype with tattoos.

It is hard for me to grasp the fact that people are willing to pay insane amounts of money to permanently ink a piece of art onto their body while enduring pain in the process, just for the sake of self-expression.

People should think twice before injecting their skin with multiple needles full of ink.

Although many see tattoos as art for the body and as a form of identity and self-expression, the negative effect it has on the possibility of any future employment has proved to be great.

The millions of tattoo enthusiasts that have received and later regretted the permanent body art can be too much to ignore. Not to mention the removal process, that usually follows this regret, can scar you and is surely not a pleasant thing to go through.

Most tattoo aficionados ignore the negative effects that receiving a tattoo can have on a person; this ignorance has led to disappointment, especially in the workforce, when their body art causes a negative perception of identity.

In a study done by the Pew Research Center, the negative effect that a tattoo can have on tattooed individuals when it comes to employment is clearly shown.

Of 2,700 people surveyed about their attitudes towards tattoos, 76 percent said that tattoos hurt their chances of getting a job, while 39 percent said that employees with tattoos reflect poorly on their employers.

This reality can leave many tattooed hopefuls wishing they never got inked in the first place.

When someone gets tattooed in a visible area of the body they are immediately putting themselves under a scope of perception that is challenged by society, and what is reflected is usually a negative and poor portrayal of the human body.

The fact that having a tattoo can be a determinant in the prevention of an individual moving up in position in the workplace can be an indicator that tattoos, especially visible ones, should not be a decision to be taken lightly.

In the study it continues on to state that 19 percent of people with tattoos have received an associates degree, then the numbers fall down to 10 percent for those who have received a bachelor's degree, eight percent for those with a master's and three percent for those with a PhD.

PRO CON

If this is any indicator, then the more educated that a person is, the less likely they are to have a tattoo. Employers use statistics such as these to implement into their hiring process standards. Tattoos cause subtle discrimination and at the end of the day portray a negative light on their potential employers.

The facts don't lie, getting a tattoo might seem like a great way for a person to express themselves but people need to take into consideration all of the negative aspects of receiving a tattoo and how detrimental it can be to the way that they are perceived and reconsider whether the benefits really do outweigh the costs.

Album Review

Matt and Kim disappoint with latest album

By Elizabeth Castillo
Editor in Chief

Matt and Kim's latest album, "New Glow", is a lackluster record that doesn't even shimmer, let alone glow. The 28-minute album is filled with thrown together tracks that end and lead straight into another thoughtless, unimpressive song. Some of the tracks on this record have odd hip-hop influences that are extremely unsuccessful.

Trap and hip pop have been influencing today's top 40 more so than in the past, but in an attempt to have the next Katy Perry "Dark Horse," instead Matt and Kim create an aimless album that isn't excessively catchy or enjoyable. The outro song on the album, "I See Ya" has a slow pace, and doesn't scream fun, which is the music that Matt and Kim focus on. The final track is a pointless song on a disappointing album.

"New Glow" lacks any standouts as well. The strongest songs on this record are just the least mediocre ones. "Can You Blame Me" isn't terrible but the intro is a bit reminiscent of "California Gurls." Once Matt Johnson's vocals kick-in though, the song feels a bit more likable and similar to their previous sound. With that being said, the song isn't the pop anthem of the year, but it keeps this record from being entirely terrible. It also ends before the listener even gets a chance to fully enjoy it. "Not Alone" has a catchy piano, but the song doesn't have



PHOTO FROM MATTANDKIMMUSIC.COM

anything unique or feature instrumentation that makes it superior. It is reminiscent of "Daylight" but is done less successfully. The song is just another reasonably enjoyable track that isn't terrible.

One of the more ridiculous songs on this album is "Hoodie On." This track had the potential for being entertaining and thoughtful, but like most of the album,

ends in disappointment. The song is an ode to the "trust funder" and "yuppie". While these stereotypes live like kings, according to Johnson, they still prefer to travel the world in their hoodie and chucks. If this song were satirical, it would have been really clever, but it's doubtful that Matt and Kim purposefully intended for the song to be that silly. In "World is Ending," the duo attempt thoughtful lyricism but don't follow through. The line "the selfie is alive and growing stronger" in a song about catastrophe, it shows a hint of lyricism that criticizes society's new values, but takes this idea nowhere. "World is Ending" is probably the most thoughtful song on the album but still lacks quality lyricism and quality instrumentation.

Matt and Kim are known for their light and playful pop music, but this album takes that notion way too far. With "New Glow," it's surprising the duo is even attempting to have an adult audience. They would be much more successful in the indie realm with the youngsters who listen to quality pop music. "Make a Mess" can easily be a clean-up song geared toward children. The song would be much more respectable if that was its actual intention.

Matt and Kim's music has typically been happy pop, but when the lyricism falls flat, the instrumentation is uninspired and the album doesn't even surpass 30 minutes, all that's left is a disappointing album that leaves listeners sad.

★★☆☆☆☆

The Renegade Rip

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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.



Column

Wrongful labeling in music

Vanessa A. Munoz | Nessa's Music Rant

Why do people feel it is necessary to give everything a label? Understanding why there are so many music genres is unnecessary. If you look up music genres you will see the multiple labels there are for each type of music.

The different names of these genres are just as ridiculous as the amount of them there are. Some of these names aren't even names. They are activities that the type of music supposedly inspires people to become active in or think about.

Genres that include Exercise music to Inspirational music, and Trap music (trance, tech, dance music) to Kindy music (children's music). What quite a few people, including myself, wonder is why even give a label to a form of music that already has a music type and give it a different name just because there is a little twist in how the music is performed or played?

It is not hard to see why music is progressing since all things usually get better over time. People are always looking for something new, and are always trying to create different things in order to catch the public's attention.

Sometimes when you're looking up music online, you might enter Rock, but what you get are sounds of techno and amplified electronic notes just to realize you're listening to what is considered TimeLord Rock music. You might get some vocals if there are any on that track and technically that form is not even considered real TimeLord Music.

Another genre of music has R&B, Jazz, Soul, Poetry, Acoustic, and Talk all mixed into one and it's called Psychedelic Soul music, which, honestly, isn't that bad.

These are just a few examples of some of the different music genres I have come across. It is interesting to hear these types of music especially from the different countries some of these genres come from.

All of these different talents are taken into consideration when it comes to wondering why there are different names and labels for music that sometimes does not even match up with its genre. How can music with a techno and electronic tone even be considered Rock music? Or how can Soul music even include such a strong bass that takes the song to a different level other than soft, sultry, and mellow?

While trying to understand these reasons for the butchering of certain genres, the question of whether or not these genres are legitimate or just an alternate reason to create music that is crap and play it off to the world as real music.

If a band creates Rock music, Jazz, Rap, Country, or even Techno and it sounds weird and like a completely different genre of music, then do the world a favor and just call it crap and let them start over. Criticism is not bad and should be considerable especially when dealing with music.

Hopefully, they will learn and progress in that style of music and create not just something different, new, and unique, but they will have perfected that style to their ability and will be able to give the people what they want, which is real music. Slapping a label on a style doesn't mean it is real music and if it's not real music, it shouldn't be considered music at all.

Police brutality still a real issue

By Kevin Phillips
Reporter

People are asking whether police brutality is on the rise. I would like to know when it had gone on the decline. For a large majority of blacks and other minorities, that question is ridiculous.

Police brutality has never slowed down since the Civil Rights Movement. There is a lot of footage of police siccing dogs on women and children while they were being sprayed by high-powered water hoses. Those people were peacefully marching, asking this country to give them civil rights and to treat them like humans.

Today, much of these types of actions aren't just caught on news footage by the media. Now, cell phones have great video cameras on them, and the public has been catching the police in the act of brutality and murder of unarmed men.

What I see on the rise is more

proof of their conduct.

The Willie Lynch mentality that has been deeply rooted in the police force has not yet been weeded out. It still continues to be practiced today in the form of racial profiling. On a regular basis, we see on the news somewhere in this country showing the police shooting and killing someone when it is apparent the officer's life was not being threatened.

That is clearly the case in South Carolina where police officer Michael Slager shot an unarmed black man, Walter Scott, in the back five times, and as he laid there, the officer placed his Taser next to the victim as if he had taken the Taser from him.

The police report reads that "The suspect took my Taser and I was in fear of my life." Well, the video tells a totally different story than what the officer told.

Then there is the example in Cleveland, where officer Michael Brelo is on trial for manslaughter in the killing of an unarmed

black couple, Timothy Russell and Malissa Williams, whose car was shot over 137 times. Officer Michael Berlo jumped on the hood of the car and shot the last 15 shots into the windshield. Berlo's footprints were found on the hood of the car. But when asked in court, Berlo said he could not remember doing that.

Another clear case of cold-blooded murder.

This can't be justified, no way no how. Where was the threat? There was none.

And to try him on manslaughter and not murder is a crime.

The law is very clear on this, it states that deadly force should only be used when the officer's life is being threatened. That is the only time when deadly force should be used. That is the law.

But when we look on TV, that is not the case. Police are still shooting unarmed men and getting away with it.

In another case in downtown Los Angeles, a homeless man, unarmed and black, had seven

officers surround him, and while using tasers, another officer shot the man five times. It is heart wrenching to watch this stuff daily and not one officer has ever admitted to doing anything wrong.

I write these words knowing that there are good officers out there who do a good job.

I hope that some of these officers who took their oath seriously take a real stand and start to expose the bad cops and not worry about any backlash if any. If an officer feels he is a good cop but is not exposing the bad officer, then he is a part of the problem, too.

We need real cops who will uphold the law and enforce it no matter who breaks it. That's what good cops do, so hats off to all the good cops because I can see that being a police officer is a very hard job.

Police officers are human, and as humans we make mistakes from time to time.

And one thing they can't teach

the officers in the police force is how to deal with fear. Fear is a factor in a lot of these cases and how that officer deals with it will have a direct affect on the outcome of the situation.

I think a lot of people would feel a whole lot better if just one officer said he was scared or nervous and accidentally shot someone.

That would make more sense then telling those lies as if the public doesn't know a lie when they hear one.

That's what causes most of the anger in the community: the lies. The truth would help most of the community deal with the pain of losing a loved one. The truth also will help bring back some trust of the police because all police aren't bad cops.

And the hiring practice should be adjusted while 67 percent of the residents in Ferguson, Missouri, are black but only three of the 53 officers are black. Not a good representation of the community is there.

A league of gamer athletes

By Mason J. Rockfellow
Reporter

Esports, or what others might call video games, are now a collegiate sport, and I think that's fantastic.

For all the college students out there who aren't the athletic type or just have more fun competing through a computer screen, this is a dream come true.

The video game League of Legends has made its collegiate sport debut and is considered an actual sport. Students who are at a four-year college can try out and possibly make a spot for a team, or students who aren't trying to chance their luck at a try-out, can also rally a team of their own together. By doing so they will try to fight their way to the top against their college's teams and others through computer screens to see which college has the best team in North America.

Some of you may be thinking playing a video game is not a sport. Obviously, you've never played League of Legends. This is a game that requires a skill set that you can't just pick up in a few days. It's a game that requires on-the-spot strategy, timing, communication, and fast reflexes -- and to sum it up -- some excellent teamwork.

The amount of communication and teamwork that is needed to play this game is just as substantial as any other sport. If you and your teammates aren't communicating and working together

as a team, you might as well just give up and surrender, because the team that is communicating and working well together will have the victory in the palm of their hands.

Gamers are competitive just like any other athlete in any other sport. This is a great way for those college students, who are also gamers, to get a chance to compete doing something they love. Plus, now they play at a college-level and even win scholarship money to help them through their studies at college.

With the last year's 2013-2014 collegiate season successful, over 540 teams from over 300 universities throughout the U.S. and Canada competed against each other to see who was the best team in North America. With the North American Collegiate Championship in 2014, only eight teams made the championship from three different brackets: Colligate StarLeague, Ivy Collegiate League of Legends, and the NACC's own open bracket to compete for a prize of over \$100,000 in scholarships.

That sounds like a pretty good deal for being good at a video game.

University of British Columbia, San Jose State University, University of Washington, and others colleges competed last year in the first NACC League of Legends Championship. University of Washington took the win and the scholarship money last year.



ILLUSTRATION BY HUGO JAUREGUI / THE RIP

Now, I never would've thought that playing video games could help your college career but I was wrong. It's very real.

Another game that is still in closed beta but is trying to make its way to a collegiate sport is Heroes of the Storm, another highly based strategy, teamwork and communication based video game that takes a certain set of skills. This year, Blizzard is hosting a tournament called Heroes of the Dorm, which is open to students attending a four-year college in the U.S. and Canada. The winners will get their tuition paid for the rest of their college career and fourth-year students can earn up to \$25,000 to help pay back college expenses and the top four teams will also get a gaming computer built by Blizzard.

The finals will be on live TV and digital platforms hosted by

ESPN on April 26. If ESPN is televising a video game competition live, I'm pretty sure we can call video games a sport, because ESPN is pretty much calling it one. Oh yeah, they also have fantasy brackets for LOL and Heroes of the Storm.

Korea has had TV channels dedicated to games like these and we are just around the corner from having the same thing.

In fact, we pretty much do have the same thing but it's a little different.

For all you gamers, you know what Twitch is. For those of you that don't, Twitch is a website that streams live video games all day and all night long and usually is hosted by the individual playing from their house, you can watch them, even tip them money, but almost every video game out there is being streamed live, and if you didn't happen to

catch it, the stream might have been saved for you to watch later.

Twitch is a great opportunity to show off your gaming skills or just to watch and learn about the games you love to play.

I think esports becoming collegiate is a great opportunity for gamers and students. Maybe a few students will become great gamers and maybe a few gamers will become great students. I think this is just what this generation of students and gamers needs. Esports are on the rise and so is the gamer.

To find out more on League of Legends and Heroes of the Storm and their collegiate activity, you can visit na.lolesports.com and www.heroesofthedorm.com and don't forget to check out www.twitch.com to see your favorite games played by the some of the best and the worst.

Play Review

Frederick Douglass comes to life in BC indoor theater

By Kevin Phillips
Reporter

The play chronicling the life of Frederick Douglass was an amazing event held April 8 in the Bakersfield College new indoor theater.

Phil Darius Wallace played Douglass in "Self-Made Man: The Frederick Douglass Story" and all of the other characters in the play.

He showed his amazing acting skills as he entertained us and educated us about Douglas, who was an African-American social reformer in the 1800s.

To watch this beautiful performance by Wallace was definitely a treat.

I really enjoyed the way he transformed from one character to the next, and I would like to see his one-man shows on Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X.

Wallace has been doing these types of plays for elementary, middle, and high schools across



COURTESY OF PHIL DARIUS WALLACE

Phil Darius Wallace plays the part of Frederick Douglass during the play on April 8 inside the SPARc indoor theater.

the country. He is such a great performer that a lot of people will learn from him.

The play covered Douglass' life from childhood to adult. Douglass was born a slave with the slave master being his dad. The wife of the slave master taught Douglass how to read even though it was against the

law for any blacks to learn how to read, and the punishment was death.

Douglass was raised by his grandmother, who took the time to teach him about the evils of the world. Douglass eventually escaped slavery and became a leader in the abolitionist movement.



MARIA MAYA / THE RIP

The chamber choir performs for audience members before the play started on April 8.

The play was preceded by a fabulous dinner from the BC culinary arts class with chef Alex Gomez.

That was followed by a fantastic performance by the Bakers-

field college choir and chambers singers.

The choir was amazing and set the tone for a great night out.

★★★★★

BC baseball falls short of a postseason bid

By Mohamed Bafakih
Sports Editor

It's nearing the end of another tough, long season for Bakersfield College baseball, as they'll miss the playoffs for a second consecutive season.

Consistency was needed in the final month, but the Renegades (14-19 overall, 8-10 WSC South) have gone 4-4 prior to Tuesday's matchup at home vs. Canyons in April.

"Regardless of where you're going to end up, the worst thing you can do is throw in the towel and say, 'well, lets wait till next year,'" head coach Tim Painton said. "You still continue to work and strive."

Although BC has won three of their last four games, they lost a crucial one to a struggling West L.A. team (6-27, 2-16 WSC South) 12-4 on April 16 after defeating them just two days before, 9-5.

That loss played a factor because if the Renegades had won, they would have been in the conversation for playoffs.

West L.A. gave up just seven hits to BC, while offensively, the Wildcats scored four runs apiece in the bottom of the fourth and bottom of the eighth on 21 hits to give them their second conference win.

Luckily for Bakersfield, they managed to bounce back against Canyons (17-16, 9-9 WSC South) on April 18 by defeating



ELIAS C. AHUMADA / THE RIP

Bakersfield College center fielder Hanz Harker slides home after a double by first baseman Zach Tanner on April 14.

the Cougars 8-4.

Sophomore right-hander Allan Winans (3-5) pitched a full game giving up seven hits while striking out seven batters, bringing his total to 75 on the season (tied

for fourth in state.)

It was a better offensive showing for the Renegades as well.

Freshman's Brooks Douglass and Hanz Harker led the way along with sophomore Eddie

Torres, as Douglass went 2-for-5 with two runs and one RBI, Harker going 3-for-4 with one run and one RBI, and Torres with three runs, three hits and an RBI on 3-for-5 at-bats.

The season will conclude here at home this week as BC will host L.A. Valley (18-14-1, 11-7 WSC South) on April 23 and 24 at 3 p.m.

35-year record broken by Saunders

By Marcus Castro
Reporter

Kaira Saunders broke a 35-year-old Bakersfield College track and field record in the 200-meter dash April 17 during the Western State Conference preliminaries in Ventura.

"It's unusual," head coach Pam Kelley said. "We came back Friday night and we realized she broke the record."

Saunders ran the 200 in a time of 24.78 seconds. That beat the old record form 1980 held by Thea Parrish, which was 24.94.

Saunders also took first in the 100 with a time of 12.11 seconds. Then to top off her winning for the day, she took first in the long jump with a distance of 17.19 feet.

The rest of the track and field team had its ups and downs at the prelims.

The BC men once again struggled as they only had one competitor place in the top four in the event.

Tristan McGee was the guy that placed fourth, and he did it in the long jump with a distance

of 22.04 feet.

The BC women had a few standouts that placed top three in multiple events.

Saunders took first in the 100 with a time of 12.11 seconds. Then to top off her winning for the day, she took first in the long jump with a distance of 17.19 feet.

Leah Theroux took first in the 800-meter run with a time of 2 minutes 23.04 seconds. She then placed third in the 1,500-meter run with a time of 4:52.00.

Jessica Campbell placed third

in the 800 with a time of 2:23.66. She then took first in the 1,500 with a time of 4:45.78.

The team traveled to compete at Mt. San Antonio College on Saturday, April 11.

Both BC teams struggled, but the men really had it rough. BC men failed to place top four in every event they competed in.

The BC women had a tough time keeping up with this level of competition.

They had more runners that didn't place in the top four than they usually do.

Saunders placed fourth in the 100-meter dash with a time of 12.05 seconds. Paola Silvestre placed fourth in the 3,000-meter steeplechase with a time of 12 minutes 8.30 seconds. The BC women's A-relay team placed third in the 4x100-meter relay with a time of 47.86. The BC women's A-relay team also placed third in the 4x400-meter relay with a time of 4:01.79.

BC's track and field team will be heading to Santa Barbara City College to compete in the WSC Finals on Friday, April 24.

Choi not enough for BC golf

By Marcus Castro
Reporter

Bakersfield College men's golf team continues to struggle as the season nears the end.

The team traveled to Glendale College on April 13 to compete in a tournament.

BC took eighth place in the tournament with a team score of 443. College of the Canyons came in first place.

Jeremy Choi led the team with a score of 83.

Bowdy Carroll shot an 86, Brad Chamberlain shot a 90, and Jarret Buntley and Jerren Walter shot a 92.

The BC men traveled to Ventura on April 20 to compete in a tournament.

BC once again placed eighth with a team score of 397, which happens to be their best team score all season.

Canyons took first place with a team score of 362, and Will Mullins of Canyons placed first as an individual with a score of 69.

Choi, as usual, led the team with a score of 75. He looks to play well in the Western State Conference finals and in the State Championship.

Walter shot a 76, Chamberlain shot an 80, and Tal Pruett and Buntley shot an 83.

The BC men will travel to Antelope Valley to compete in the WSC Finals on April 27. They will also travel to Ventura to compete in the WSC Southern California Championships on May 3.

Swim sees bumps at conference

By Mohamed Bafakih
Sports Editor

It was all about tapering the last couple of weeks before Bakersfield College's swim teams made their way back to L.A. Valley College for the Western State Conference Swimming Championships on Apr. 30-May 3.

This was an opportunity for the women's team to defend their WSC Championship while the men's side looked to finish the season strong.

"I thought everyone went out and did their best... we had a few bumps in the road, but overall I was happy with how the team responded," said head coach Matt Moon. "As we look forward to the possibility of competing at the CCCAA State Championship meet, we will make some adjustments to move forward and swim at a high level."

Women: The women's team nosedived finishing in sixth place with 342 total points, a 265-point difference from the previous conference championship season. Lexi Zimmerman, Sara Klang and Paige Richardson led the way on the women's side as they combined for 137 of the team's 209 individual points.

Zimmerman finished top three in all three of her events taking second in both the 100-

yard breaststroke (1:13.88) and 200-yard breaststroke (2:35.12) while finishing third in the 200-IM with a time of 2:19.26.

Klang took third in both the 500-yard freestyle (5:26.05) and 200-yard butterfly (2:26.37).

For Richardson, she took fourth in both the 200-yard freestyle (2:03.85) and the 1650-yard freestyle (19:30.04).

Men: Just like last year's WSC Championship, the Bakersfield College men's swimming team

took third overall with 451 points, finishing behind Cuesta (520 points) and Ventura (664 points).

Freshmen twins Lyle and Nick Drake led the way along with team-captain Cristian Serrato.

Lyle took fourth in the 1650-yard freestyle with a time of 17:26.34 and fourth in the 500-yard freestyle with a time of 4:52.62 while his twin brother Nick finished fourth in the 200-yard backstroke (2:07.42) and fifth in the 100-yard backstroke (56.97).

Serrato placed fourth in the 200-yard breaststroke with a time of 2:22.10 and fifth in the 100-yard breaststroke with a time of 1:04.21.

A list of the BC swimmers who have qualified for the state meet between Apr. 30 and May 2 are posted on therip.com/sports.

"I thought everyone went out and did their best... we had a few bumps in the road, but overall I was happy with how the team responded. We will make some adjustments to move forward and swim at a high level."

**- Matt Moon,
BC Head Swim Coach**

Early season success fades away for softball

By Mason J. Rockfellow
Reporter

Bakersfield College's softball team has been going back and forth, winning and losing equally the last two weeks, leaving them just out of reach of making the playoffs with only two more games left in the season.

BC went to Santa Monica for a doubleheader on April 7, the first game went smoothly for BC taking the win 4-1, and not allowing Santa Monica to score until the seventh inning.

The second game was can-

celled due to rain in the top of the third inning.

BC was then host to College of the Canyons on April 9, Alex Avila hit a double, three RBIs, and a homerun and stole a base, BC took the win 8-6.

The next day April 10, BC hosted Allan Hancock.

Hancock took the win 9-1 only allowing BC one run in the fourth inning.

BC then hosted a doubleheader to San Bernardino on April 11, which ended in a split.

The first game was taken by San Bernardino in a close game

that ended 12-11. Trinidad Lee hit a double, three RBIs and two homeruns. Even with BC hitting three doubles, seven RBIs and two home runs, they still came up short. The second game BC took the victory by 10 runs 15-5. BC totaled up six doubles and 14 RBIs.

Trinidad Lee racking up another three RBIs, Vanessa Moralez with three RBIs, and Giselle Moore with two RBIs.

Next, BC traveled to LA Valley College on April 14 for a doubleheader, with LAVC taking the win at home 12-9 for the

first game. Next, BC split the doubleheader and won the second game 10-8.

BC was on the road again and went down to LA Mission College on April 16. LA Mission took home the win 12-4 but allowed BC to score four runs in the fourth inning.

BC will have played their last two games on April 21 against Antelope Valley College who are third right now in the conference.

And that's going to do it this year for the Bakersfield College softball team.

Column Leaving

Bako is a no-no

MOHAMED BAFAKIH | Going beneath the shield

Bakersfield has seen waves of talented athletes make their departure into the real world straight out of high school by attending schools outside of the area.

But do some realize they are not ready, whether it's in-state or out-of-state, Division 1 or community college?

It's understandable to make the decision when you can manage the obstacles of being on your own at 18 or 19 (even though most of us really can't even go a day without seeing momma), but really, it takes a lot to handle the pressure of living up to expectations while holding a scholarship or being a walk-on.

Adjustments are part of the process, but it's all about progress. This is where Bakersfield College allows students to mature in every aspect as a young adult with four-year aspirations. First off, it's a chance to stay home. So what if you want to leave? It's almost guaranteed more than 1-of-2 students need to be home to develop or will come back home eventually.

As New York Life Insurance mentioned in an article, "56 percent of men and 43 percent of women between 18 and 24 are living with one or both parents. As many as 65 percent of recent college graduates have returned home." Also, freedom isn't really free...we all know. It's completely comprehensible someone from Bakersfield is anxious to get out of this "shithole," but come on; you think you can afford the price of living elsewhere? Just because you see your friends leaving, it doesn't mean it should be an obligation for you to leave as well...take to my colleague Brooke Howard's columns.

ESPN.com's National Director of Recruiting Paul Biancardi took to Twitter and made a great point recently.

"Don't be in a rush to get to the next level...be in a rush to improve," he said. Kids don't seem to get that. It's as if Bakersfield and BC automatically ring a bad bell to our residents. Competing at the community college level truly determines your readiness for the next level.

Those two years shape you, polishes you, and tests your abilities both on the playing grounds and in the classroom. I respect the hustle and grind of a junior college athlete. They seem more focused on making it to the next level.

At the high school level, some athletes are just naturally gifted and their transition will be smooth into a four-year program, but I still think it's the mental aspect of a JUCO athlete that will allow them to perform better by the time they get ready to make the same leap.

For instance, our baseball team, women's basketball team, swim teams, and a few other sports teams are just about all local. When you see this, it makes you appreciate their effort into continuing to represent Bakersfield.

What I really don't seem to get is why a student-athlete from Bakersfield will decide to go to another community college out of the area when BC can provide what they're looking for while they can stay home and save up some money. This is a common trend that seems just flat-out selfish. Everyone is looking to compete to earn a scholarship and play the sport they love, but when it's all set and done - being ready for whatever mental, physical and emotional obstacles a teenage athlete may have to overcome shows they're ready to be at a four-year program.

Two players stand out after tough season

By Mason J. Rockfellow
Reporter

With Bakersfield College's softball season coming to an end, there are two players who have showed their consistency and effort throughout the season.

Alex Avila: Bakersfield College softball's center fielder, sophomore Alex Avila, 20, can also hit. Avila started playing T-ball at the age of 6.

She said that it wasn't always so obvious that she would grow up to be playing competitively at a college level.

"When I first started out he [Alex's dad] would catch me in the outfield catching butterflies," said Avila.

Now, Avila is only 10 hits away from breaking the BC softball record. According to California Community College Association, Avila is ninth overall in hits with 63 hits.

Avila also has five home runs, 19 RBIs, 131 at-bats, 23 stolen bases and still has two games to go.

Not only that, she bats left-handed when she was originally batting right.

"I try not to think about hitting; I just do it," said Avila. "I just try to put the ball in play."

Avila played four years on varsity at North High; during her time at North she was turned from hitting right-handed to hitting left-handed. She explained that they were up against a tough

team and the coach just told her to hit left. Well, she got a hit and it all started from there, along with the help and advice from lefty teammates Brenna Moss and Katie Hoffman.

When asked what motivates and keeps Avila going in softball, she said since her dad and her are close, it's a nice way of getting in some bonding, and that there is just something about the way softball makes you feel when you make a good play.

It also lets Avila escape for a few hours at a time.

"It's a getaway from the outside world," Avila said.

Avila said that in the younger days, playing was more about being social and now it's still social but the competitive part of the game is definitely shown a lot more at the college level.

"Now our whole team is talented together," stated Avila.

"I have to work hard to keep up with these girls."

Trinidad Lee: Bakersfield College's freshman pitcher, Trinidad Lee, 19, has pitched 125.1 innings so far this season, while also getting some time in on the infield.

Lee has also hit eight home runs this season leaving her in 18th place overall for home runs, with two games remaining.

Lee started playing softball at the age of 8, and she was also a cheerleader at one point.

Lee played four years of varsity softball at three different



MASON J. ROCKFELLOW / THE RIP

Sophomore center fielder Alex Avila (left) and freshman pitcher Trinidad Lee are two players who have shown great effort throughout the Renegades' softball season, despite a season filled with obstacles.

schools here in Bakersfield over her high school career.

Lee played for Golden Valley her freshman and sophomore year, West High for her junior year and finished off at Ridgeview as a senior.

Lee explained that pitching has always been a back-and-forth situation during her softball

career and doesn't mind it.

"I like playing on the field and catching," said Lee.

Lee said that her favorite position to play is pitcher and catcher is second.

As a freshman, Lee isn't exactly sure what four-year schools she will look at, but for now she is working on a criminology de-

gree and will just take the rest of the ride how it comes.

"I'm trying to finish here at BC first and then worry about what comes next," said Lee.

When Lee was asked when she noticed a change in pace or different level of competitive play in softball, she said, "When I started playing travel ball."

Two things help motivate her to be a softball player, her family and the reassurance that she can go somewhere and do something with her life.

Lee mentioned one more thing that is essential to playing as a team.

"Learn how to play for your teammates too," said Lee.

BC baseball players make an impact on their team



PHOTOS BY MARCUS CASTRO / THE RIP

Above: Hanz Harker, outfielder for the Bakersfield College baseball team, leads the team in hits this season. Below: Sophomore right-handed pitcher Allan Winans has been the top pitcher for BC the last two years.



By Mohamed Bafakih
Sports Editor

The 2015 baseball season is coming to a close for Bakersfield College. In spite of a mere inconsistent season that has dealt with many ups and downs, certain players managed to make an impact and prove that they would do whatever is needed of them to rack up some wins on a consistent basis.

With the Renegades falling just short of the playoffs, some guys will reflect back and wish things had gone different, but these two guys can pat themselves on the back for the work they've put in since last June and move on and continue to improve toward their next campaign.

Hanz Harker: As a freshman, center fielder Hanz Harker has remarkably been a key piece in the Renegades' batting rotation since the start of the season. In his debut back on Jan. 30 against El Camino, Harker finished 3-for-5 with two runs and a double. It was the start of what has now become almost a normal at-bat routine for Harker.

Harker graduated from Liberty HS in 2014 where he played both baseball and football for the Patriots. With baseball, Hanz was a two-year varsity starter appearing in 62 total games and holding a batting average of .314 to go along with 48 hits, 43 runs and 29 RBIs in 153 at-bats.

On the gridiron, Harker played receiver for the Pats where he totaled 27 receptions for 508 yards and five touchdowns in two seasons.

"Playing football really showed me what it was like to be a good teammate and having a bond with teammates like they were my brothers," Harker said.

Although Harker wanted to pursue both sports upon his arrival at BC, baseball – his love since the age of three – kept him on the diamond instead.

"It ended up being a great decision for me. Coach P [Painton] is a great coach and [he] has really helped me progress as a player," Harker said.

Hanz also credits his father, Nick Harker, who attends his games regularly on his progression.

"My dad is the biggest influence I have in my life," Harker said. "He always tells me to play and work hard on a daily basis."

Prior to Tuesday's matchup against Canyons, Harker has started in all 33 games this season averaging team highs in nearly every hitting category and he's among the state's best in a few categories such as; 16 doubles (3rd in state), 49 hits (17th in state), 34 runs (20th in state), .477 on base percentage (21st in state), and a .377 batting average (30th in state).

With only two games remaining, Harker knows this isn't where he wants things to end same time next season.

"During the offseason it's going to be a lot of grinding... you can expect me to come out and work hard every day. I would like to end it with going to the playoffs and getting a state championship," Harker stated.

Allan Winans: The Bakersfield-born and bred sophomore right-handed pitcher may be finishing up his last week in a Renegade uniform and in a Bakersfield ballpark, but this is just the beginning of what's to come for Allan Winans.

Signing his letter of intent to play baseball at Campbell University in Buies Creek, NC back on Nov. 12, Winans is excited about getting the opportunity to continue his playing career at the NCAA Division-1 level.

"It's an awesome feeling and I felt comfortable with [Campbell]," Winans said. "They have a winning attitude as they have had many 40 plus wins seasons."

Winans, a graduate of Frontier HS

in 2013, was a standout pitcher for the Titans.

As a senior, Allan was selected to First Team All-Area and the Southwest Yosemite League's Most Valuable Pitcher posting an ERA of 1.98 and 92 strikeouts in 12 starts leading the Titans to a 9-3 record with him getting the start.

Although he generated interest from other schools, Winans knew Bakersfield College would be the right fit.

"I knew BC would definitely prepare me," Winans said. "Tim Painton is an outstanding coach as well and it's a school where my family could still watch me play."

During his freshman season, Winans pitched in more innings than any other Renegade pitcher at just over 79 and despite having an ERA of 4.07, Winans was selected to the Western State Conference-South All Second Team.

"It was a tough year as a whole... but I learned a lot from it," Winans said. The team wound up with nearly an identical record as this year's team – putting them outside of the playoff picture.

"It's tough... we lost a lot of close games this year," Winans stated on missing the postseason again.

Winans was part of those close games as five of his losses on the mound were by an average of 2.4 runs.

Going into Tuesday, Winans has pitched in 86 innings (4th in state) and is tied for fourth in the state in strikeouts (75).

On what Winans will miss most about playing baseball for BC:

"I'm going to miss the walk-offs, the clubhouse, the bus rides... my last two years, 600 days were spent here – more than I've spent time at my house – but I'm finally where I want to be and I'm more prepared than ever for what is next."

Bakersfield College golfer ready for next step

By Marcus Castro
Reporter

Bakersfield College's top men's golfer, Jeremy Choi, continues to look forward in golf as he always has.

"It [golf] is something I did all my life, and I was good at it. So I just stuck to it," said Choi.

Choi is currently 20-years-old, and he is a sophomore at BC. His major is liberal arts, but his major will change to finances when he transfers to California State University, Bakersfield.

Choi was born in Bakersfield and has lived here his whole life. He learned much of his golfing

through his father, and he also gained his talent from being on Centennial High School's team for all four years he was there.

Golfing was something that Choi started doing at a very young age; his parents started to teach him at the age of 5.

Around junior high, Choi started to golf competitively. Choi, for the most part, has been one of the best on the teams he has been on.

When asked if he had any golf idols Choi said, "Honestly, there's this one kid in my league; his names Jonny Hogan. He's a really dedicated golfer, and he reminds me of my friend, Neil

Bautista, who used to play here [BC]. He [Bautista] is also a very dedicated golfer, and that's something I admire in them."

During the offseason, Choi practices at Riverlakes Golf Course often. This is the course where he shot his all-time record score of 65.

BC men's golf team is not doing well this year causing Choi to shine even more than he usually does.

Choi said, "I don't really care about shining out. It's unfortunate that we don't win as much as we want to... I'd rather just win as a team. They're my friends too."

Choi commented on his team-

mates saying that they are all individually amazing.

The next step for Choi, after this season, is to play golf for CSUB's men's golf team. He doesn't know where he will go in golf after he's done playing for CSUB, but he does know that whenever his golf career is done he will be working in finances.

Currently, Choi is preparing to compete in the state championships; his goal is to place in the top 10.

"I don't expect much because it's going to be my first time. I just want to play well and have fun," said Choi.



MARCUS CASTRO / THE RIP

Jeremy Choi has been the leader of Bakersfield College's men's golf team as they trail through a tough season.



Service dogs providing service for war veterans

By Amber Hayden
Online Editor

Capt. Luis Carlos Montalvan visited the indoor theater at Bakersfield College April 7 to discuss the importance of service animals, as well as letting other veterans know they aren't alone in their fight with the numerous things they go through after tours of duty overseas.

Montalvan now resides in New York City with his service dog, Tuesday.

Living in New York he says is electric because there is always something going on.

After two tours, Montalvan returned home physically and psychologically wounded, and after dealing with his own wounds he wanted to find a way to help others.

The book, "Until Tuesday," was his way of expressing what had happened before and after receiving his dog, with the help of a local group that paired veterans with service animals.

His main concern is the returning veterans who have served several tours of duty who retire after and end up suffering from one form of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and receive little if no help from Veterans Affairs.

"We say we won the war, but we actually lost it," Montalvan said.

For those who read his book, his wish is that it will help others to understand the effects of war and trauma on those who return home. For those returning home it helps them to understand they are not alone in their struggles.

"What isn't talked about is the effects of war, and what families and countries go through because of it," he commented.

His greatest hope is that during his reach outs at conventions and speeches, to those who will take the time to listen, it could possibly click, even for one person,

and they will realize they need to get some form of help no matter whom they turn to.

Serving 17 years in the Army, Montalvan still has the love for the armed forces.

"I love the army still, but it breaks my heart," he said during his speech.

After the speech, Montalvan signed copies of his book for those who had purchased it, some of which can be found in the BC bookstore on campus.

For anyone wishing to speak with Capt. Montalvan, they can do so by emailing him at luis-carlosmontalvan@hotmail.com.



PHOTOS BY AMBER HAYDEN / THE RIP

Captain Luis Montalvan and his dog, Tuesday, hug after his presentation at the SPARC indoor theater April 7. Montalvan expresses that every day Tuesday saves his life by being there with him 24 hours a day seven days a week. He hopes that each speech he gives will help others realize the importance of helping those with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.



MARCUS CASTRO / THE RIP

Fred Smith, BC athletic trainer, works on former BC football player Khalil Ealy.

Trainer inducted into Hall of Fame

By Marcus Castro
Reporter

Fred Smith has been Bakersfield College's athletic trainer for the past 31 years, and is now being inducted into the California Community College Athletic Trainers' Association's Hall of Fame.

"He [Smith] should be acknowledged for all of his dedication and hard work, and he's not going to go around and tell everybody that he's been inducted into the Hall of Fame, so I'm just letting people know," said BC athletic trainer Mike Medeiros.

Smith traveled to San Diego where the award ceremony was held. He expressed that he felt pressure to make a good speech because he has been thinking about what to say for two months now.

Smith said, "I have passion in what I do so some emotion came out... I like to call it an emotionally charged presentation."

People came up to Smith after his speech to let him know that there were many people in the audience that had tears in their

eyes.

Smith attended Fresno State University where he got a Bachelor's Degree and a Master's Degree while he also became a Certified Athletic Trainer in their sports medicine program. In 2003, Smith got certified from the National Academy of Sports Medicine as a Performance Enhancement Specialist.

Smith worked as an athletic trainer at Fresno City College for 2 years starting in 1982. In 1984, Smith got a job as an athletic trainer at BC and has been at BC ever since. He has worked as the Post Season Representative for football for over 20 years, and he has also been a Western State Conference representative for six years.

Smith has been involved in the Kern County Concussion Consortium where he provides concussion policies that are up to date. Over the many years Smith has worked as an athletic trainer, and has learned that things are constantly changing in sports medicine and that keeping up with advancements is important. Smith has learned through the

years that correcting the problem before it happens is the best way to keep an athlete healthy. He says that is especially true today.

"Athletes aren't as durable as they used to be. My thought and theory is they are not playing physically outside doing more sports... They are not being subjected to the stresses, physically," said Smith.

Smith says that his team is great. He expressed his thankfulness for Dr. William Baker, Dr. Michael Tivnon, Tim Terrio, and Dr. John March. "They are all very good at what they do, but one of their best attributes is they know when to refer," said Smith referring to his team.

Smith is also the program director of the student athletic trainer program. He explained that the program gives students the opportunity to not only gain experience but to see if this is what they really want their career to be. Smith said that he has some good years left in him before he retires.

"I'm enjoying it, and I'm having more fun now than I ever have," said Smith.

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