

# The Renegade Rip

BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE

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## BC works on new policy for smoking

By Amber Hayden  
Online Editor

For the past few years, there have been conversations on campus about where Bakersfield College stood on the smoking policy. Although, there seems to be some disagreements between SGA President Alex Dominguez and other members of SGA on how strict the policy should be.

SGA and the dean of Allied Health, Cindy Collier, held a meeting Feb. 20 to discuss what seems to be a year and a half rollout that will announce where the campus is going with its smoking policy.

BC hopes to offer a service to educate smokers and possibly offer students and employees the patches to help them quit because BC may soon be completely tobacco-free.

After having been tabled for quite a while, SGA president Alex Dominguez once again brought up the topic of changing policy. "I spoke in favor of it as the trustee, the policy change allows the campus to decide what happens on campus...basically what needs to happen now is just a resolution saying that SGA supports it," said Dominguez.

The current standing restriction for smoking on campus is federal law. The law states smokers have to be 20 feet from the building. But the ongoing goal is to make the campus 100 percent tobacco-free.

This means a complete ban on everything from cigarettes to the vape pens that some students use. Even if the vapors from the pens are mainly water, they still consider the pens a tobacco product.

The college does not want to penalize students for using tobacco products on campus, but would rather educate them on the risks to themselves as well as those around them. No full decision on this has been made, though.

Although Collier and Dominguez want to see the current smoking policy go, there seems to be some unrest between the pair and several members of SGA.

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AMBER HAYDEN / THE RIP

BC's Marissa Jones (12) and Alex Green (1) look to trap Mt. San Jacinto's Lailahni Tuaila (32) during the second half. BC will now play Irvine Valley.

## BC women still dominating

### Renegades advance to third round

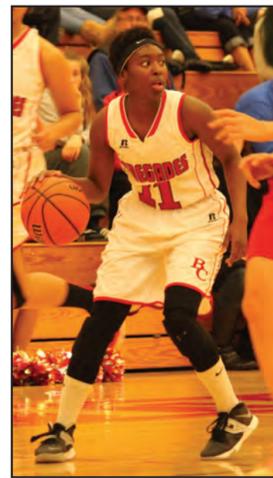
By Mohamed Bafakih  
Sports Editor

The last time head coach Paula Dahl and the Bakersfield College women's basketball program earned a postseason bid was back in the 2006-07 season where the Renegades were eliminated by Antelope Valley College in the second round.

Eight years later, the Renegades played AVC in yet another pivotal game – this time, however, with a Western State Conference South outright title at stake.

The Renegades showed a gutsy effort as they played in a 2-3 zone defensively for the first time all season and managed to hold the Marauders, who came in averaging just under 60 points per game, to just 43 points.

Despite a conference-low scoring night from sophomore Nakia Page, as she finished with just eight points on sophomore night, three other sophomores managed to get into double-figures. Claesey Tarver and Rosebrooke Hunt each scored a team-high of



ELIAS C. AHUMADA / THE RIP

**Bakersfield point guard Khiylah Dean looks to set up a Renegade fastbreak to remain ahead of MSJ.**

12 points and Yoemma Esparza added 11 points of her own leading to a 52-43 BC win on Feb. 21, and completing a perfect second half of conference play

and a celebratory cutting of the net down for the third time in the program's history in front of a packed house at Gil Bishop Sports Center.

"That's what I continue to say is the essence of this team... the fact that we are deep and can go deep," Dahl said after the conference-clinching title victory – the first outright title in the program's 36 years.

Although Page in her regular season finale was held to just eight points, she along with Tarver, Hunt, Esparza and fellow sophomore Alex Green would be named to All-Conference honors the following week.

Page and Dahl would collect the top honors respectively for the WSC South Division, as Page, who averaged 17.8 points per game and 7.8 rebounds per game, took home the MVP award and Dahl with the Coach of the Year award for the fourth time in her 20-year tenure at BC.

The remainder of the starting five would also respectively

Please see **PLAYOFFS**, Page 5



ELIAS C. AHUMADA / THE RIP

BC's Yoemma Esparza (20) looks for an entry pass as she is defended well by Mt. San Jacinto's Kathryn Thomas (13).

## Author speaks on species' communication

By Mason J. Rockfellow  
Reporter

Anne Benvenuti visited Bakersfield College's Norman Levan Center for the Humanities on Feb. 24 to talk about how she believes that human communication is not superior to other animals' ways of communicating. Benvenuti's book "Spirit Unleashed: Reimagining Human-Animal Relations," was nominated for the 2014 Pulitzer Prize for non-fiction and the 2014 Pen Literary Award.

"Humans are distinct from and superior than all other animals," said Benvenuti, "That's wrong... every species is different from

every species."

She explained how most humans are convinced that humans are superior and how that isn't surprising. "We like our kind best, and that's just natural."

Benvenuti shared an excerpt from her book, in which she had picked up a bat that was laying on the ground because it had opened its wing when she walked by it. When she picked it up, the bat brought its hand to its mouth and touched its tongue.

Benvenuti figured that the bat was dehydrated and telling her that it needed water, so she took the bat down to the creek. She watched the bat gulp up the water, swim away from her and it

got out on the other side of the creek and hung upside down and fell asleep.

Just because humans can't have a conversation with animals doesn't mean that they are without language, explained Benvenuti.

"The language is there, we just aren't perceiving it," said Benvenuti.

Benvenuti has had encounters with many other animals and hopes to experience more.

"I have had lots of experiences with animals like the bat and I want more," said Benvenuti.

Benvenuti showed a short clip of how prairie dogs communicate with each other. In fact, they are

very precise in communicating with each other through alarm calls that vary depending on species, colors, size, and even shape. This means that animals are capable of abstracting, explained Benvenuti.

Another short clip shown was about the Cornell listening lab where scientists were studying the ways elephants communicate and what they found was that elephants make a sound that our human ear can't hear. This sound we can't hear can travel up to six miles. Elephants also have a cavity in their hooves that allow elephants to communicate over large distances.

"Elephants communicate seis-

mically over 20 miles," said Benvenuti.

Benvenuti also talked about how some animals and even insects have certain ways of communicating. Dogs talk to each other through chemical language and bees communicate through physical language explained Benvenuti.

According to Benvenuti, humans are not at the top of the brain chart. "Whale brains win the brain award," said Benvenuti.

The thesis to Benvenuti's book is "Animal life on Earth is a great living conversation and this fact

Please see **AUTHOR**, Page 5



VICTORIA MILLER / THE RIP

Anne Benvenuti lectures about animal habits at BC.

## Cheap 'wild' date

By Darla Mangrum  
Reporter

Once again it is time to take a break from classrooms and studying and go do something fun with your special someone.

Spring is the perfect time to take a walk along a path of wildflowers, a hike in the hills, a bike ride in San Emigdo Canyon, or have a picnic by a beautiful waterfall. You can do all these things and more at The Wildlands Conservancy-Wind Wolves Preserve. The best part about Wind Wolves Preserve is everything is free and it has a lot to offer, such as: Birding hikes, Earth Art, Full Moon Night hikes, Black Out Night hikes, El Camino Viejo Wilderness hike, Outdoor Survival Preparedness, and Movies in the Canyon. If you are interested in learning history about the backcountry of the preserves, you can



DARLA MANGRUM / THE RIP

This archway, at the visitor's center, was built from antlers of the local wildlife, such as, Mule Deer and Tule Elk.

always take their free three-hour Backcountry Adventure tour into the hills.

This tour includes wonderful views of the San Joaquin Valley, including the lush hills and mountains that are tucked away in the backcountry, not to mention, wildlife sightings, Native American history and natural

history. The tour bus is equipped with air-conditioning and heating for comfort. This is truly a hidden gem in Kern County. It is about 25 miles outside of Bakersfield. For more information you can call (661) 858-1115 or windwolvespreserve@twc-ca.org.

If you are looking for some-

thing to do that is closer to home, you can always go to the NX Annex this Saturday, March 7. The Annex is having a family-friendly live art show. Between 12 p.m. and 3 p.m. they offer a free art class to children. After 3 p.m. the live art show begins.

A live art show is very entertaining because you can actually

watch the artists create the work in your presence. Some of Bakersfield's best street artists will be graffiti battling for prizes. This event will continue into the midnight. The price for this event is \$5 per person and children 12 and under get in for free. For more information you can go to Rawket661@gmail.com.

Column

## What to regret in your 20s, nothing

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

Being in your 20s is hard. Your 20s is the decade of change, huge life decisions, and you have to accomplish all of this with limited time, money, and sleep.

You might feel like you are being pulled in a million different directions, and your teachers, parents and peers are all watching you very closely.

So how do you tackle these years and come out on top? I interviewed a dozen people whom have "been there, done that" and shared their wisdom of the pursuit of happiness.

"The things I regret in my 20s are not things like missing class every once and awhile when I was up at Bakersfield College in 1963," said former BC nursing graduate Peggy Wendig.

"I am not telling you that skipping classes is a good thing, but I certainly don't regret it. I would beat myself up about it then, but now I look back and feel silly I was so worried about it," Wendig continued.

Others agreed that traveling and getting out of their comfort zone should have been a top priority when they had the chance.

"The things I regret are not trying to find more things I was good at. I was scared to go out and do things because I wanted to stay in my comfort zone," Jillian Miller, 32, said.

"I wish I could have went and traveled with my girlfriends when we had the chance," Miller continued.

Miller's friend, Karen Morteza, agreed with her and added, "Yeah I agree. But oddly enough I regret not having kids earlier because I was so focused on getting a career, I didn't travel or have kids till I turned 34."

Life is meant to be what you want it to be whether that means having kids at a younger age or traveling the world. But some, such as Gregory Western, 64, just regret taking things so serious all the time.

"I wish I would have bucked up and kissed the cheerleaders, gone to those bonfires, and realized it's a good thing to not be serious all the time. I know all of this now, but I realized it in my 30s, which is too late to kiss cheerleaders, trust me," Western said.

Some others have no regrets at all and that's just the point Sherry Young, 45, wants to reiterate to Bakersfield's youth.

"I don't regret the little things that got to me when I was younger, I really wish I didn't care what people thought of me when I was 20-something. I wish kids in high school and college knew that.

"Don't spend so much time caring what people think of you and what you do. I am who I am today because of what I did in my 20s, and I am very happy," Young said.

Ed Lyndon, 52, agrees with that type of thinking.

"I don't regret anything I did back then and that's the beauty of being so young. I made a lot of mistakes, but I made sure I fixed them. Just be a good person and a good member of society and you'll be alright."

It seems like the golden rules of your 20s include: Travel as much as possible, don't beat yourself up over little things, do the things that make you happy, fix your mistakes, and overall - just don't regret anything, and learn from everything.

## The local vampires only come out at night

By Rhiannon Stroberg  
Reporter

Heresy is at it again. The Vampyre Ball, hosted by event creator Mike Fowler, was a huge success drawing local vampires together at nightclub Cielo 9 off Rosedale Highway.

For those of you who are not aware, Heresy is a dark alternative/punk/goth nightclub in which they hold themed events pertaining to the dark culture.

At the event on Feb. 20, they provided everyone with a "Scream" themed wristband that allowed access to the 21-and-over event.

During the event, enjoyably loud, synthetic pop rock music blasted through the speakers, vibrating the walls, while flashing laser lights pierced through the room, lighting up every pale face masked with dark makeup and fake blood.

The costumes, or normal dress-

ing attire for some, mainly consisted of fishnets, trench coats, corsets, plaid clothing, chunky boots, black tutus, spiked heels or wedged heeled shoes known widely among the Goth community as creepers.

The hairstyles varied from mohawks, liberty spikes, Betty Paige bangs, beehives, as well as various different types of colored hair.

The makeup resembled that of something you'd see in a Tim Burton movie. Pale faces with eyes rimmed with black, red, and occasionally both. Mouths were painted with black, red, or a deep purple shade lipstick while some dressed their mouths up with blood pouring out.

Heresy promoter Joe Jinx, a local hairstylist, says that he has been attending Heresy for the past year. "I really like it because it's the only dark alternative club in Bakersfield, and it's basically a place where people can congre-

gate and enjoy the music," said Jinx.

Jinx said that he loves how Heresy is able to bring a darker, declarative culture to Bakersfield that people can enjoy.

"Even if you're not a part of the culture you can still enjoy it," he said.

Jinx also mentioned the halt of Heresy events due to having issues with finding a venue.

"When that happened, there was a huge outrage," he said. "People enjoy coming to these events because they love how they can be themselves and fully express the darker side of them that lingers within. Fortunately for us, Mike doesn't want to let Heresy go because he knows how much we enjoy it. Mike is always able to pull through because he is a smart businessman and is great at planning these events."

The event founder, Mike Fowler, stated that he created this

event because, "In the late 80's and early 90's, I was involved in the alternative music scene. I was a punk rock skater, going to shows every weekend; either playing in a band, or just going to watch the show. I left the music scene in 1993 and got a family, became religious, started a career, owned an SUV, opened a 401K and so on. In 2007, I really wanted to do something in the local music community again, so I started planning what I knew, alternative music. More specifically, dark alternative music: Goth, dark electro, new wave, punk, industrial, etc. When I visited a club in Hollywood one night, I said, 'This is it. This is what my teen years were like'. My religious friends were telling each other that I was becoming a heretic, so I decided to give them something to talk about and called it 'Heresy'."

Fowler said, "I want to keep meeting new people and intro-

duce this dark, beautiful little world to them. There's half a million of people in Bakersfield and I want them to come see what happens here and what Heresy is about. I want them to become a part of Heresy. Since Heresy's purchase of Tim Gardea Presents last year, yes, I do have some specific plans but I can't talk about them yet."

Fowler also has hopes to one day own a venue for Heresy.

"I dream about Heresy. I've had dreams that Heresy was worldwide. I even dreamt once that we had to rent out the Renegade Stadium to hold Heresy at because it became so big. Another time, I dreamt that I had grown Heresy all the way to Dubai. For now: yes, I plan to have a Heresy venue one day. I'm just waiting for the opportune moment. Bakersfield has been very good to Heresy, and I'm sure you all will be ready to take that next step with me when the time comes."

## This issue's Top Ten

### Things to do before the week begins

1. Meal planning- put fresh food that you can microwave or eat as-is in containers!
2. Set out five gym outfits (you're more likely to go if you have outfits out and ready.)
3. Make a list of things due for classes and work.
4. Do all of your laundry and iron a weeks worth of work clothes.
5. Bag daily amounts of vitamins and medicine.
6. Charge up all electronics (iPods, laptops, etc.)
7. Mark up a calendar of all events that week.
8. Put your weekly budgeted spending money in an envelope.
9. Fill up your gas tank/check transportation.
10. Send out all emails and bills for the week.

## Skateland is re-opening

By Elka Wyatt  
Reporter

Lace up your skates and get rolling because Skateland, a popular Bakersfield skating rink for six decades, is here to stay.

Built and operated as a roller skating rink since 1955, the doors to Skateland were closed in Sept. 2014 and it looked like the new buyer would be using the building as a warehouse located on Ming Avenue.

As luck would have it, that deal fell through and the popular skating rink went back on the market.

Helen Swall, 40, began skating as a child at Skateland. She took private skating lessons there and also skated in the sessions on a regular basis.

As an adult, Swall then became one of the original members of The Bakersfield Diamond Divas, a local roller derby team.

The team practiced regularly at Skateland and held some of their bouts there as well. When the rink closed, the Divas were left with no home rink. With the rink on the market again, Swall found the perfect opportunity to keep Skateland as a skating rink, and also give the Divas a permanent home rink.

Along with her husband, Victor Swall, and his parents Michael and Marie Swall, Skateland was given a new lease on life. They officially became the owners on Dec. 12, 2014.

"It was the right time and the right place," said Swall about her decision to buy the skating rink where she spent many hours practicing figure skating, freestyle skating and roller derby for the majority of her life.

Bakersfield native Barbara Carroll, 61, said that though she did not go very often, she remembers going to Skateland around the age of eight.

Shannon Hogg, who took skating lessons from two of the skating instructors, including Natalie Dunn Fries, a four-time artistic roller skating world champion, said "Going back to Skateland brings back happy childhood memories."

The Dunns, Omar and Dolores came to teach roller-skating in 1959. In the 60s, they managed the rink and sometime in the mid 70s they bought it. Their daughters Natalie Dunn Fries and Leslie Dunn-Meyers took over in 1995. Their hopes that Skateland would remain a skating rink were realized when the Swall family bought the building and was again opened for skating.

Swall confirmed that they would be making much-needed improvements to the rink including paint, carpet and the addition of three party zones. She also assured that some things would remain the same.

"We did get rid of the video games," said Swall, "kids don't play them anymore, they are on their phones now."

Skateland will be available for private parties, school skating parties and fundraisers.

In addition to holiday specials, they offer Two Buck Tuesday, on the first Tuesday of the month, bargain night each Wednesday and regular skating sessions on Friday evening, Saturday afternoon and evening and Sunday afternoon.

The Divas will also be practicing three nights a week.

## Get up & Go

### March 4

"Retail Corner" @ 9 a.m. Located at the Fireside room in CC building. BC will host a career event for a group of retailers who are hiring.

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

### March 5

David Kopay; The first NFL player to come out @ 7 p.m. Free and open to all. Located at The First Congregational Church on S. Real Road Bakersfield, California 93309

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Womens History Month Movie Night @ 6:30-8:45 p.m. Located at the East Forum.

### March 6

Tickets go on sale for the "Earthquake" exhibit at the William M. Thomas Planetarium. \$8 adults/\$6 seniors, only children ages 5-12. Get your tickets before they sell out.

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CIF State Wrestling Championships @ 9 a.m. the 6th & 9 a.m./ 6 p.m. the 7th of March. Tickets: \$16-\$23. All season pass \$69.

### March 7

Iration Tales from the Sea, Stick Figure, Hours Eastly @ 8 p.m. An alternative rock/reggae group of musicians. Located at the Fox Theater. Tickets: \$20/ \$23 at the door.

### March 8

Bakersfield Christian Youth Film Festival @ 7 p.m. Located at the Fox Theater. The Kern Youth Network awards \$2500 in prizes

### March 10

ORNH B3 Tree Circus @ 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Located at the Renegade Park. Landscape installation and maintenance tree circus demonstration. Hands on lessons.

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Gadfly Cafe: Marijuana, Should it be decriminalized or legalized? @ 12:30 -1:30 p.m. Located at the Levan Center.

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CAS (critical Academic Skills) Workshop @ 2 p.m.- 3 p.m. Instructor C. Schaefer. Located at the SS building in room 151.

### March 11

Women's History Month: Food scientist Paola Colindres Campo guest speaker @6:30-8 p.m., BC Norman Levan Center.

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Houchin Blood Bank presents; "Cesar E. Chavez, Blood Drive" @ 9 a.m.-4 p.m. the 11th and @ 9 a.m.-2 p.m. the 12th. Located at the Fireside room. A chance to win \$500 in cash, free T-shirts and food will be handed out.

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CAS (Critical Academic Skills) Workshop "Resisting Run-on's" @11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Instructor A. Townsend. Located at the SS building in room 151.

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Assistive Technology @ 4-6 p.m. Located in L148. A faculty member will be giving hands on training on assistive technology.

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Spring Play "Rhinoceros" @ 8 p.m. every night from the 11th of March to the 15th. Donations of \$10 are welcomed. Tickets: \$5 students, Staff/Faculty, seniors, and military.

### March 12

Metric Conversions @ 3-4 p.m. Located at MS6. Learn how to accurately measure using the standard unit's of measure for the United States.

### March 16

CAS (Critical Academic Skills) Workshop "Maximizing Memory" @ noon-1 p.m. Instructor C. Schaefer Located in the SS building in room 151.

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BC Cheer Clinic/Tryout's @ 5-6:30 p.m. March 16-18. March 19 at 6 p.m., final judging. Located in the Dance Room in the gym. Bring transcripts (can be unofficial). Questions: Becki Whitson, 395-4619.

### March 17

CAS (Critical Academic Skills) Workshop "Innovate" @ 11 a.m.- Noon. Instructor J. Davies. Located in the SS building in room 151.

### March 18

CAS (Critical Academic Skills) Workshop "Organize" @ 3-4 p.m. Instructor E. Miller. Located in the SS building in room 151.

# Geology student proves to be an awesome excavator

By Mason J. Rockfellow  
Reporter

Over winter break, Bakersfield College geology major, Max Janszen, 21, and some old friends of his went into the desert in New Mexico to explore an old, dangerous, abandoned mine.

The adventure began when Janszen hopped on a plane out of LAX and flew to Philadelphia to meet up with Danny, Mike, Maria and David Edwards, Joe Sepiol and Mia Huffman. Janszen met Danny and Mike while attending the New Mexico Military Institute.

"I hadn't seen Danny in about two years, and it was great to get back together," said Janszen.

While in Philadelphia, the group planned out the trip. The planning included what gear to bring, signaling methods when inside the mine, knowing the route and approach, and rehearsing rescue tactics for vertical environments.

"To plan everything out properly, it took about a day," said Janszen. All members of the group had experience in doing things like this before and some sort of emergency medical training, explained Janszen.

"Make sure to get the proper training, experience, and equipment before attempting anything technical like this," said Janszen.

The gear consisted of the following per person: food for a day, water for a day and a half, advanced medical supplies, three sources of light totaling up to about 2,000 hours of illumination, 10 ChemLights (blue, green, orange and yellow), rigging gear, extra rope, helmets, eye protection and three sets of lithium ion batteries for their 3,000 lumen head lamps.

They also had a gas meter that detects hydrogen sulfide, low oxygen, lower explosive limits, and carbon monoxide.

From there, the group packed up the car and set out on an adventure to New Mexico.

"I flew to Philly, then the team drove all the way to New Mexico...Can you imagine putting about 1,200 pounds into a Mazda 3...The car was packed with so much stuff that we could barely see the windows," Janszen said. The group had spent about six hours in the plane and then spent about 32 hours in the car the next day until reaching the destination in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

"We saw some crazy shit on the way," said Janszen. From Las Cruces, they drove out to the desert where it was about 20 degrees outside with snow on the ground, when reaching their destination, they still had about a half-mile walk to where they could enter the mine.

"If we are in the desert, we are always armed," said Janszen.

While on their way to the mine, they came across an opening and decided it was more than good enough to enter there. "We repelled through a stope that had collapsed," said Janszen. A stope is an area of the mine where it has been hollowed out due to it being mined.

For safety purposes, Maria and David stayed at the surface with radios and the coordinates of their location in case anything went wrong down in the mines and they could provide assistance or contact the local authorities.

They repelled about 480 vertical feet into the mine. Once inside the mine, the ChemLights came in handy, the blue ChemLights were attached to their feet so they could keep track of each other, yellow to mark rock-fall areas, orange for drop-off zones and green to mark their trail so they didn't get lost 480 feet underground.

The group started to explore the mine and started finding old mine carts, mine tracks, newspapers, sticks and boxes of TNT that they could see were unstable due to the nitroglycerin sweating out of the TNT sticks.

"We were really tempted to bring back some TNT, but it was extremely unstable. So we never got within 15 feet of the stuff," said Janszen.

Janszen had found a detona-



COURTESY OF MAX JANSZEN

Janszen vertically climbs down into the mine in New Mexico. Janszen, including a group of his peers, spent about five hours inside the mine.



COURTESY OF MAX JANSZEN

The group enjoys a quick snack break during the time they spent in the New Mexico mine.



COURTESY OF MAX JANSZEN

The main drop from the stope is about the same volume as the Bakersfield College gym, according to Janszen.

tion line or transmission line and decided to follow it when the old woodwork of the mine scared him.

The ladder he was climbing came loose and flipped around on him. "I was climbing a wooden ladder following the detonation cord or a transmission line just to see where it was going," said Janszen. "It was really sturdy, but there were times when I was nervous."

They split up for a little bit and had their own agendas. "While Danny and Mike were exploring the mine, me and Joe were hacking away at the walls, ceiling, and floors for ore samples," said Janszen.

By that time it was almost 3 a.m. in the morning and they had gone into the mine at 10 p.m.

On their way out, they were hoisting up some treasures that they found which mostly consisted of ore, drill bits and mine cart track nails, and a few old newspapers.

The bag and rope that was carrying their souvenirs kept getting stuck on the side of the mine and causing rock-fall for the people climbing below Janszen.

"The rock-fall... that's why you wear a helmet," said Janszen. Once out of the mine, it was time to get back to Las Cruces and clean up and get ready to go home.

"We came out of there completely black, and I still haven't gotten it out of my boots yet," said Janszen. "At the end of the trip I was exhausted and it was very well worth it. I wouldn't of had it any other way."

By the time Janszen got home all he wanted to do was sleep.

Well, he did, for a day and a half, only getting up to eat and go to the bathroom.

Janszen is going to be putting on a sporting clay-shooting friendly competition at Kern County Gun Club on April 18 with an \$85 entry fee.

A variety of prizes will be giv-



COURTESY OF MAX JANSZEN

(Above) Danny Edwards practices vertical rescue while Janszen acts as an unresponsive victim.



COURTESY OF MAX JANSZEN

(Above) Max Janszen kneels next to cart suspension as he explores an abandoned mine in the desert of New Mexico.



PHOTO BY MARCUS CASTRO / THE RIP

(Above) Max Janszen, a geology major at Bakersfield College, is studying on his laptop in the BC library.

**"Make sure to get the proper training, experience, and equipment before attempting anything technical like this"**

**- Max Janszen  
BC student**



COURTESY OF MAX JANSZEN

Janszen looks down a slightly inclined haulage shaft and examines the woodwork.

en out and Janszen will be giving the proceeds to the Geology Club.

Janszen and classmate Thomas Jannuzzi are trying to get a "Makers Group" together outside of school so that they can build and trade goods by utilizing hand-skilled trades.

If you're interested, contact Max Janszen on Facebook.

## Rush Air Sports is Bakersfield's playground

By Marcus Castro  
Reporter

Rush Air Sports is a new attraction in Bakersfield where people can partake in different sports in an unorthodox way.

Tashauna Gray, a manager at Rush, said, "It's a rush to go to rush."

"Finally, a fun thing to do in Bakersfield," said supervisor Garrett Lafavor.

There are many activities that Rush offers its customers that involve climbing and the use of trampolines.

A 17,000-square-foot section of the 40,000-square-foot warehouse is dedicated to large trampolines. This is the section where customers can free jump and show off their possible acrobatic skills.

There are three different dodgeball courts with different layouts. All three dodgeball courts are played on trampolines.

There are also two different rock walls. One is a transparent wall where you compete against a visible person on the other side of the wall. The other wall has touch pads that will accurately time the climber.

Another activity is the climbing sticks. The sticks get taller and taller as someone attempts to climb to the tallest one.

There is a puzzle-themed climbing activity where people have to climb up several large colorful cubes.



PHOTOS BY MARCUS CASTRO / THE RIP

Above: Here is a section of the 17,000-square-foot trampoline room where people can enjoy jumping. Right: Two Rush customers enjoy a fight on the battle beam.



There is also a section where people can do slam-dunks. There are three different hoops that vary in height. What makes this activity different is that the runways, up to the hoops, are large trampolines.

A battle beam is placed over a foam pit where people battle to knock their opponent off the beam.

Gray explained that sometime in the next year or so there will be an addition of an obstacle course

she called a "ninja" course.

Rush offers an aerobics class on Tuesdays and Saturdays. It is \$10 per class or \$90 for 10 classes.

Toddler time is also offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays. It costs \$10 for the first hour or \$15 for both hours.

"It allows them [toddlers] to have the space to themselves without the risk of being trampled by the big kids and the adults," said Gray.

Rush also offers parties and overnight slumber parties where large groups can be at Rush for nine hours through the night.

Rush charges by the hour. For one hour it is \$13, for 90 minutes it is \$19, and for two hours it is \$25. There is a mandatory purchase of Rush socks of \$3. The socks can be reused for future visits.

For Rush hours and party bookings visit [www.rushair-sports.com](http://www.rushair-sports.com).

## BC students wish they'd known about the parade

By Trina Goree  
Reporter

Not many Bakersfield College students attended the annual Black American History Day Parade, though there were some alumni present.

When asking BC students about the annual Black American History Day Parade, the consensus was the students simply did not know about it.

"Never heard anything about it," mentioned Yoli Puente, a BC student majoring in nursing and radiology, referring to the annual parade. Puente went on to explain she would attend if she heard more information and had seen more publicity about the annual parade. Also explaining Martin Luther King is big amongst her son.

When Ian Equality, a new engineering major student at BC, was asked about attending the annual parade, Equality men-

tioned, "No, I did not attend." Equality spoke about being misinformed about the event, mentioning that there were no signs up around campus. Also Equality mentioned, "No one talked about it, there was no word of mouth," also referring to the annual parade.

Nick Jackson, former BC student, stated, "I bring my son and nephew so they can see our community in a positive way and it helps them appreciate the achievements of past African Americans."

There were many families in attendance at the annual event. Parents of many backgrounds were there with their children. Children along with their parents enjoyed an array of entries the annual parade had to offer.

Student after student replied in a similar way, including Miles Post, Clayton Fowler, and Sahar Forouzanfar; all stated they did not attend the annual parade.

"Did not know we had one," mentioned Forouzanfar. The group and other students would attend if there were more of an effort put into targeting a younger demographic. It's something the group would be interested in attending in the future.

The annual event celebrates the accomplishments of the African American community and its supporters. An expression of culture, our celebration through unity was this year's theme. The theme's inspiration was featured in many of the entries in this year's parade.

Any persons or organizations interested in being in next year's annual Black American History Day Parade call Gloria Patterson at 661-703-7955 for more info.

The Black American History Parade and Heritage Festival are annual events held in Bakersfield on the last Saturday in February. Admissions to both events are free to the public.



PHOTOS BY JAVIER VALDES / THE RIP

Above: Members of the African Association of Kern County walked the Black History Day Parade in Downtown Bakersfield on Feb. 28. Below Left: The African Women's Club of Bakersfield represent their organization during the parade. Below Right: Members from the St. Peter Children Ministry represent different African countries.



JAVIER VALDES / THE RIP

Protesters stand outside Sprouts Farmers Market during the Feb. 25 opening of the store.

## Sprouts Farmers Market now open

By Elizabeth Castillo  
Editor in Chief

Sprouts Farmers Market opened at the Shops at River Walk shopping center on Feb. 25. The grocery store specializes in natural and organic foods.

The grand opening had employees handing out balloons to children at the store and giving out free orange juice and milk. Shoppers at the store's opening said that they're glad to have more natural and organic options in Bakersfield.

"I grew up on a farm and I know that the meat looks nice and fresh," said Brenda Findley, a Sprouts shopper.

Findley said that she hopes to find more groceries for her

daughter who has a gluten allergy. Katherine Hallisey, another shopper, said that she's impressed to see more retail growth in Bakersfield.

"We're becoming a real city," she said. "This is all the type of stuff that's from places like Burbank."

Although shoppers at the new location were excited to have Sprouts, the opening concerned some individuals as well.

Protesters were outside of the store handing out flyers and informing shoppers of health code violations and employee complaints.

"Workers of Sprouts are being abused and mistreated in California," said Marc Moran, a protester at the grand opening.

According to flyers that the protesters were distributing, United Natural Foods, Inc., a Sprouts supplier, threatened and fired employees for starting a labor union.

Sprouts locations in other cities have had rat droppings and flies in food prep areas and some locations held meat at unsafe temperatures, the flyers read.

Although concerns at other Sprouts locations do exist, shoppers were primarily excited to be given more grocery options.

"There are not a whole lot of other health food stores in Bakersfield," said Kaley Chapin, another attendee of the grocery store's grand opening. "I'm just excited we have another health food store in town."

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## Declines in oil industry causes negative impact on Kern economy

By Victoria Miller  
Reporter

Most people have a lot to smile about at the pump these days, however, many oil producing locations and small businesses in the oil industry are hurting from the recent decline in crude oil prices.

Tupper Hull, vice president of communications at Western States Petroleum Association explained the key factors of the recent decline in gas prices, one factor being over production. "In the laws of supply and demand when you have an increase of supply, demand is either static or declining, prices typically react by going down," said Hull.

According to Hull, Saudi Arabia, the biggest member of OPEC, is not slowing down production, despite the fact they too are not benefiting from overproduction of oil. "I think the conventional wisdom among analyst is that the Saudis made something of a political calculation; there are countries that are heavily dependent on the revenues from the sale of their oil to finance their government operations and their social service programs. It seems to be the decision on the part of the Saudis to try to stress the economy of those countries, presumably or perhaps influence a change of government in those jurisdictions."

Also, the anti-fracturing move-

ment, or according to Hull, the anti-oil movement, is contributing to slowing oil production in the US. "These are very large organizations that are determined to either impose a moratorium on hydraulic fracturing or to create barriers to it. It's our view and it's my belief that an examination of the facts will prove out that these organizations just fundamentally would like to see oil production in California stopped."

It's not just oil companies suffering from declining gas prices; oil service companies are struggling just as much. Hull says many service companies have recently been forced to lay off employees. "Whether or not it impacts the overall employment picture or economic growth, whether that shows up, statistically really is something only time will tell," said Hull.

It's no secret residents of Kern County are hit harder than most regarding the declining gas prices, but according to Hull, the current price trend for gas is affecting more than just careers. "Kern County has adopted a fiscal emergency declaration. This is the result in anticipated declines in property tax payments. In oil producing areas, the property is assessed based on what the current value of the oil in the ground is. It was 100 bucks a year ago, and its 50 dollars today, that means, the property tax revenues

from oil producing areas is cut in half. That's a big, big hit to Kern County," said Hull.

Hull says fortunately the sustainability of this current trend is likely temporary.

"I'm not seeing a sentiment expressed in the oil industry that the pricing situation today is permanent but there seems to be pretty wide disparity of views about how long they perceive this current low price trough to stick around."

Carlton Carroll, a spokesman for the American Petroleum Association says this current trend shouldn't deter investors or governmental support.

"EIA projects that from 2013 to 2040, global consumption of liquid fuels will rise by 30 percent. U.S. oil and natural gas producers make investment decisions based on long-term expectations, not short-term prices, and our government should do the same to support energy security," said Carroll.

Carroll mentions some ideas that would benefit the current state of the oil industry.

"What the industry needs is smart energy policies that will create jobs," he said.

"We need to enhance LNG exports, repeal the crude exports ban and approve the Keystone XL pipeline all of which will create tens of thousands of good paying jobs."

## PLAYOFFS: Women's basketball team advances

Continued from Page 1  
finish with First Team All-WSC South honors.

With a 22-4 record, the Renegades were granted the sixth seed in the So-Cal Regional Playoffs on Feb. 23, automatically putting them in the second round.

However, this is as far as the program has gotten in 15 years when BC, as a 15-seed, lost to Mt. San Antonio College, 78-73 in the 2000-01 regional playoffs.

The Renegades hosted the 11th-seeded Eagles of Mt. San Jacinto College (24-5) on Feb. 28.

BC came into the final day of February undefeated for the month at 6-0 and looked to keep the momentum going. A hot start for the Renegades put them up

by as many as 17 points with 7 minutes 30 seconds remaining in the first half, but the Eagles managed to cut it to 10 by halftime.

In the second half, the Eagles kept soaring and managed to even cut it to one point but in a back-and-forth game, reigning WSC South MVP, Page, put the finishing touches scoring 14 of her 19 points in the second half, including big buckets from the elbow to lead the Renegades to as far they have gotten in over 20 years.

"I don't want it to end," Dahl said. "We want to go all the way and I believe in this team 100 percent."

It is down to eight teams in the region, and Bakersfield College being one of them, will take its 14-2 record away from Gil Bish-

op to third-seeded Irvine Valley (26-3) now in the third round on Wednesday as they are the only remaining team from both the North and South division of the WSC to be represented.

"I get to go play my old college teammate, and I'm fired up," Dahl said, as she was speaking on Irvine Valley head coach Julie Hanks who Dahl played with at Northern Arizona University in the mid '80s. If Bakersfield wins, it will need the help of No. 7 El Camino College, which plays No. 2 East L.A. in order to host a fourth round home game on March 7 and a possible shot of earning a Final Four bid. Otherwise, the Renegades will need to keep carrying their success on the road toward the Road to State.

## POLICY: BC's smoking policy may soon change

Continued from Page 1

Megan Lonsinger commented on there being a difference between being role models for the student body, and telling them that SGA knows better than the student body on what was good for them health-wise.

"I don't want to tell any of my constituents that they can't do this even if I don't like it," said Lonsinger.

With several agreeing with Lonsinger about not wanting to come off better than the student body, several of the senators asked for another survey of the campus to be done.

Aeri Kim made the suggestion of having the senators go into their departments to conduct the surveys and report back, this way the polls were more current instead of several years old and in her opinion skewed.

Colton Nichelson also agreed with Kim, "I think as a student government we need to conduct more surveys concerning this before we take a stance. I think that is our job," he said.

In Kim's opinion some stu-

dents are using the products to help with the stresses that come with being a college student, "You can't just say you can't smoke on campus anymore, we are just going to leave you at this stressed out position where the students can't do anything about it," she said.

But according to Collier, smoking can only make it worse as far as the stress is concerned.

The other question raised during the meeting was instead of going completely tobacco-free, was to instead put up several designated areas around campus strictly for smoking.

With designated areas, concerns for costs come in because the occupational safety and health administration would have to be brought in to approve the areas. Collier said it would be something the college could do if that was decided, but she once again said she would not support that choice.

Collier along with another faculty member also tested to see if it was possible to make it from one side of the campus to where the sidewalks line the outer edge-

of the school, "You can walk either direction depending on where the building is to the sidewalk, but you have to go to the one that is closest to the building you are in," she said.

The student body has their own choices to make, but when on the grounds of the campus they are hoping students will not use it because it doesn't just affect the smoker but it is also affecting those around them.

"When I'm sitting over by the humanities building and it's blowing in my face, I'm more worried about trying to get away from the smoke because they are being inconsiderate," Dominguez commented.

Collier commented also, "My smoking employees are going to give me more of a headache then the students will because they are stuck here for nine to 10 hours a day."

The goal for Bakersfield College, according to Collier, is to be a leader in the community, and by going tobacco-free the college is showing young people that it believes in promoting health and wellness for everyone.

## AUTHOR: Visiting author discusses animal speak

Continued from Page 1

is spiritually significant."

"Even though this thesis statement sounds religious, but in fact it is very scientific," said Benvenuti.

Benvenuti has many accomplishments outside of writing her book. She has a bachelor's in theology from the University of San

Francisco, a master's in counseling psychology from University of California, Los Angeles, and a doctorate in counseling psychology from UCLA. She was also a former professor for the Kern Community College District teaching philosophy and psychology.

Benvenuti will be one of 30

people who gets to have lunch with the Dalai Lama. When asked how she got this opportunity, Benvenuti said, "Hundreds and thousands of hours of volunteer work...I'm not usually paid."

To learn more about Anne Benvenuti's work, visit newarchaic.net.

## STEM's new career paths

By Elka Wyatt  
Reporter

For most people, turning on the faucet to get a glass of water is pretty simple.

However, when you consider how the water gets from the water source to your faucet, it is actually a pretty complex process. Many different types of engineers are responsible for this.

Randy Cowart, a Control Systems Engineer, explained to students the different types of engineering degrees offered at Bakersfield College at the STEM Pathways presentation "What in the World Can You Do with an Engineering Degree?" on Feb. 25 in the Fireside Room at Bakersfield College.

"Quite a bit of engineering goes into just being able to turn on water at home," said Kennedy.

The STEM Program, which stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math, is a supportive system for students interested in pursuing a degree in

Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Engineering, Geology, Math and Physics.

The STEM Pathways Series brings to our campus individuals working in the industry to give students information about what they do and the steps they took to get there.

"There is no accomplishment in doing something that is easy, there needs to be a challenge," said Cowart.

"If something is hard, and you are able to do it, it will give you a great sense of accomplishment."

He showed the students tools used by different engineers through a PowerPoint presentation.

Cowart also mentioned that BC was in the process of creating a baccalaureate-level program for an Industrial Automation Degree, starting in the fall of 2015.

He warned that there is a lot of work involved in being an engineer but also said, "If it's an easy job, then anyone can do it



RHIANNON STROBERG / THE RIP

Physicist David Kennedy, a former BC student, presents information on the STEM engineering degrees in the Fireside Room located in the Campus Center.

for minimum wage."

He then turned the floor over to David Kennedy, a physicist who is a Bakersfield native, who took classes at BC while in high school, went to Cal State Bakersfield for two years and UC Santa Barbara for two years.

Kennedy earned a B.S. in Physics, which is not engineering.

He had to register with the

state of California as a Control Systems Engineer.

He told students how he was involved in implementing a system at the Corn Nuts plant in Fresno that went from unloading the truck of raw corn, to cooking the corn.

He said that he went from designing nuclear missiles to designing a system for processing the corn for the making of Corn

Nuts.

Cynthia Quintanilla is the STEM counselor at BC.

Anyone who is interested in becoming an engineer can e-mail her for information on the program at [cquintan@bakersfieldcollege.edu](mailto:cquintan@bakersfieldcollege.edu).

With technology becoming more and more intricate, the demand for automation engineers is pretty high.

## SGA to hold elections soon at BC

By Amber Hayden  
Online Editor

With SGA elections coming up, students may be wondering how to even go about running for a spot on the board.

According to Miles Post, a current SGA member, students have to come to the office of student life and pick up a candidate's package that requires a certain amount of signatures.

"That's not them getting the votes, that's the public saying 'okay we want you to run,'" commented Post.

Students also have to be able to meet the criteria and if they're elected into being part of the SGA, each spot is explained as far as to what the duties are.

Like last year, there will be senate debates, executive debates, and then SGA vice president and president debates. All of which will take place in the common area outside of the cafeteria.

Campaigning will be starting March 28 at 8 a.m. and will be allowed for two weeks, after which elections will be held.

The elections will go on for four days starting April 13 at 8 a.m. to April 16 at 4 p.m. and students will vote by using the insideBC portal of the Bakersfield College website. Times and dates for other information regarding elections can be found in the SGA ad placed below with The Renegade Rip.

All of the candidate meetings will take place in the Executive boardroom that is located next to the office of student life.

Only three of the current SGA members are running again for office, Post will not be one of them.

All seats are re-opened, making 23 total spots available to incoming members for the fall.

## BC professor plans another cycling quest

By K. E. Petersen  
Reporter

The annual Vision Quest is back.

Between June 8 and June 22, Professor Scott Wayland's annual Vision Quest will return. The two-week cycling adventure will span 500 miles through northeast California and southern Oregon.

You will see sights such as the Cascade Mountains and Warner Mountains, and the Lava Beds

National Monument.

The Vision Quest is a fundraiser designed to raise and donate money toward our nation's wounded service men and women.

All participants are to donate to a veteran's charity of their choice. For students, the donation is a \$50 minimum and for faculty and staff, the donation is a \$100 minimum.

Wayland said if you are not someone with a good fitness base, it is probably not an event

for you. If you are not up for the journey, you may sponsor and pay for someone who is.

Wayland, an English professor at Bakersfield College since 1996, is a self-proclaimed adventure junky and has been rock climbing, mountaineering, hiking, and hunting at age 15. At the age of 18, Wayland climbed El Capitan.

"It's just a part of my DNA," Wayland said.

In 2007, Wayland cycled 4,661 miles, across 15 states

and four time zones in 99 days. Later, he published a book, "The Winky-eyed Jesus and Other Undescribables," describing his journey.

The book started off as a blog that he would stop in libraries to update. During the journey, Wayland had an unusual experience with a couple in Ohio. The experience is what gave him the inspiration for the name of his book.

Wayland chose to raise money for wounded veterans after read-

ing the novel "War," by journalist Sebastian Junger.

"I need to do something more concrete than be sympathetic or cheering them on," Wayland said. "We have to honor in some concrete way that commitment. I don't care what your politics are, that soldier still had to go do that thing. So that's what matters to me."

To contact Professor Wayland about participating in Vision Quest, email him at [swayland@bakersfieldcollege.edu](mailto:swayland@bakersfieldcollege.edu).



## STUDENT GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

**\*\* COMING SOON \*\***

*Timeline for those wishing to run for office*

Date	Action	Time	Location
Monday, March 9	Filing for BCSGA Office Opens	8 a.m.	Online
Wednesday, March 11	Candidates meeting	Noon	Executive Boardroom
Friday, March 13	Candidates meeting	11 a.m.	Executive Boardroom
Monday, March 16	Candidates meeting	3 p.m.	Executive Boardroom
Tuesday, March 17	Candidates meeting	8 a.m.	Executive Boardroom
Wednesday, March 18	Candidates meeting	2 p.m.	Executive Boardroom
Thursday, March 19	Candidates meeting	11:30 a.m.	Executive Boardroom
Friday, March 20	Candidates meeting	11 a.m.	Executive Boardroom
Monday, March 23	Candidates meeting	9 a.m.	Executive Boardroom
Tuesday, March 24	Candidates meeting	1:30 p.m.	Executive Boardroom
Wednesday, March 25	Candidates meeting	6 p.m.	Executive Boardroom
Thursday, March 26	Candidates meeting	3 p.m.	Executive Boardroom
Friday, March 27	Filing for office closes	Noon	Online
Saturday, March 28	Campaign commences	8 a.m.	
Monday, April 13	General elections open	8 a.m.	Inside BC
Tuesday, April 14	General elections continue		Inside BC
Wednesday, April 15	General elections continue		Inside BC
Thursday, April 16	General elections close	4 p.m.	Inside BC



**FOR QUESTIONS,  
CONTACT BCSGA AT:**

Phone:  
(661) 395-4614

Email:  
[studentlife@bakersfieldcollege.edu](mailto:studentlife@bakersfieldcollege.edu)

Online:  
[bakersfieldcollege.edu/campus/bcsga-elections](http://bakersfieldcollege.edu/campus/bcsga-elections)

## AASU sponsors open mic event on campus

By K. E. Petersen  
Reporter

The African American Student Union sponsored a chalk walk and open mic event Feb. 18 on the Bakersfield College campus for Black History Month.

BC professor Paula Parks and African American student leaders coordinated this event to honor their African American ancestors, restart the AASU, which has been dormant for years, and bring a crowd together for positivity.

Beatboxer Nolan Long, 17, a first year student at BC, spit some beats into the mic and battled a member of the audience. Long has loved performing all of his life and auditions for plays at BC. He learned how to beatbox six years ago. Living in Shafter, Long is the only local beatboxer that he knows and this event has given him the opportunity to collaborate with others.

Singer, songwriter, guitarist, pianist, Tammera Grays, 18, a first-year student at BC and a member of the AASU, performed several songs. As a natural singer, Grays has been singing since she was 2 years old and currently sings at her church. Grays has written three songbooks and auditioned, but was denied a spot, for the television show "The Voice."

Her brother is a keyboardist and performs in a band called "J-2." Grays wants to get her degree in any type of music and open a recording and performing arts studio for K-12.

Singer Alex Santa Cruz, 19, a second-year student at BC, sang several songs as well as a duet of a John Legend song, "All of Me," with Grays. Santa Cruz has been a singer since the age of 5. Although he loves to perform, he chooses to keep it a hobby. Rath-



PHOTOS BY RHIANNON STROBERG / THE RIP

Nolan Long warms up the crowd at the Chalk Walk and open mic event hosted by the African American Student Union. The event was held for Black History Month.

er than attempting to become a recording artist, Santa Cruz has decided to major in Kinesiology. Growing up, Santa Cruz's parents were both musicians. His mother taught him everything that he knows about singing. As a sophomore at Bakersfield High School, Santa Cruz joined the school choir and later became a member of a band called "Black Listed." He is a natural singer who has needed very little vocal instruction.

Singer and guitarist Eliza Dyer, 20, and poet Mike Williams both performed briefly. Dyer, a sociology major, performed a song while playing a guitar that was loaned to her by one of her professors. As a Highland High School choir teacher, Dyer's father encouraged her to pursue music.

Williams, a welding major, writes poetry pieces about African American pride.

Writing poetry since he was 13, Williams feels strongly for each topic that he writes on and likes to share work that will uplift and inspire others.

Just released from prison to parole, Williams feels that he has a message to share.

"Santa Cruz slammed it," commented spectators Keani Hosino and Mariana Gomez.

"And make sure you put a million exclamation points. He was that good."

According to Parks, the event turned out better than expected.

The open mic covered a wide array of topics.

The AASU's next meeting will be held from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. March 4.



Above: Tammera Gray performs Alicia Keys' "If I Ain't Got You" for the Chalk Walk and open mic event on campus.

Left: Christopher Anderson (left) and Alex Santa Cruz play on the keyboard together at the open mic event.

## 'Rhinoceros,' the first BC production in new theater

By Amber Hayden  
Online Editor

In just under two weeks, Bakersfield College's refurbished indoor theater will host its first theatrical production "Rhinoceros," a play that was written by Eugene Ionesco, and directed by Kimberly Chin, a professor at BC, is looking forward to seeing in completion.

"I've always wanted to do an Ionesco play, and this is my first opportunity to do so. I've never been able to do a play from the theater of the absurd," Chin said.

According to Chin, theater of the absurd is complex to explain because those there to watch the play can take them in so many different ways. The play is not there to pinpoint a specific moment in time, rather to make it so anyone can relate to it and apply it to so many different movements

throughout time. "When Ionesco wrote this, he was thinking about what the French government and the people did during World War II once the Nazis had come into power," Chin said. "I love theater of the absurd and satire, the comedy, but most of all the deep message you can read into so many different ways."

The hope of the play is for the audience to watch and see that it's about the conformity in the 21st century, that we don't want to lose our individuality or comply and become a cookie-cutter copy of everyone else in the world. "Sometimes people side with the bullies, they notice 'Oh, to protect myself I should just go along with this,'" Chin said. In total, there are 20 actors in the play, all of which are taking the theater class that BC offers students. The class that is offered for those that wish to be

part of the behind the scenes and on the crew, is also a credited course with the college. Between the two theater classes, they have been able to make the production possible for BC. One student, Jose Lopez, sees it all as a team effort to make the play happen for the audience. "It means you get to be part of something bigger than yourself," he said.

"There is no 'I' in team unless it's in win, but that's not good for the team, so if we go and give it all as a team then we are going to give a better quality of show and give the audience what they need to see, laugh and hear," he said. The play will be every night from March 11 through March 15. The start time is 8 p.m. and the doors open at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are a suggested donation of \$10 for general admission and \$5 for students, faculty, senior citizens, and military.



AMBER HAYDEN / THE RIP

The cast rehearses a scene in which a cat has been run over and the cast members react to the incident. The play will run for five days starting March 11 at BC's indoor theater.

## Student loses books in house fire; BC community responds to need

By Darla Mangrum  
Reporter

Bakersfield College is not just a college, but also a caring community. On Feb. 18 Amber Chiang, the Director of Marketing and Public Relations, sent out an email about a student who had lost all of her books in a house fire.

Chiang listed the books that the student needed, and within 30 minutes Chiang had over 200 emails from BC students who wanted to help. Not only did the students respond with book offers, but many also wanted to help with any other items the student may need.

Chiang said, "Once I was able to see that I had every book

promised, I started replying to students who had offered books, and thanked them, but let them know I was expecting the book already. After that, something amazing happened."

According to Chiang, students started offering not only books but also school supplies, clothing, food, furniture, cash donations, gift cards, and more.

Chiang said, "One student went to the bookstore just hours after my message and spent more than \$100 on pencils, pens, highlighters, notebooks, folders, binders, a thumb drive, headphones, and for fun, a BC teddy bear and sports bottle."

Over the weekend, messages kept pouring in and Chiang directed those students to donate

items or cash to the Renegade Pantry, which is operated by BC's Student Government Association.

"I am overwhelmed by our students' generosity. Really, I'm often asked what I like most about working at Bakersfield College," Chiang said, "but I always respond 'the students.'"

Chiang says she loves to see the students out and about on campus and she also enjoys talking to them whenever she gets the chance.

She feels that BC is like a small city, with all the problems small cities have.

"But, in times like this, I know that small cities band together to help each other, and it is really cool to see."

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Jennifer Salas  
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Bakersfield, CA 93301

Staff Editorial

## The hard work that pays off

All your life, you're told that if you work hard, study hard, play hard and keep trying that you can accomplish anything in life. Sometimes all of those things don't seem to make any difference in the course of direction that you're headed. At times, you feel like everything that you are working hard for just isn't going to come or that maybe there are other ways to achieve those goals.

Some people find a vocational career is more suitable for them. Gaining and learning the minimum skills required to achieve a title, a pay raise, or a salary to just live a more comforting life doesn't seem too bad. Remember, though, that minimum you just learned is going to get you that, just the minimum.

Going hard in your education is easier said than done, and any true college student can agree. Being able to give 100 percent of yourself to your school life, while staying at 100 in your personal and social life is conflicting. Having to choose between a party where all of your friends that you haven't seen in years are going to be and an easy 600-word essay on a subject of your choice is harder than it seems. It isn't the fact that the essay is easy; what's difficult to determine is whether it will be accurate, clear, understandable, and correct?

The difficulty in deciding whether to remain in school or just work enough to pay your rent and bills is a constant thought that goes through your head. Even with pressure from your family to either finish school or get a good job, the stress weighs heavy not only on your mind but physically it can be exhausting. It almost feels as if you're being pulled into different areas and everyone seems to want something from you, and you're barely keeping up.

Motivation is great when it's wanted, and there are times when motivation is not enough to get you through some tough times with work and school piled on top of that. So settling is not an option, especially when you feel at your lowest.

As long as you live, your dreams will grow and change with you, and your goals will always advance to a level in life that you find suitable. Working a 9-5 job is necessary in order to survive in this world, but you don't have to be miserable working for a difficult boss who doesn't give you time and a half for working on Christmas day.

Feeling comfortable in a job enough to climb the ladder is not a bad decision, but why would you? The one thing to remember is you will not be working hard for your goals and dreams you will be working hard for someone else's.

Now, learning the ropes in a profession that you love in hopes to advance so you can end up owning your own business is another goal.

Some people may have the same goals and dreams but some are more determined than others, and we all go after them differently. Either way, education will always be a necessity in order to advance in life. What kind of education you gain and what you learn does matter, and settling for a minimum education from a vocational school will get you the minimum in life whereas gaining education of a specific job in a specific career will help you to excel in that line of work.

Allow yourself to explore your mind by taking different courses in college and see what you grow to love. Maybe what you thought you wanted isn't what you're passionate about. There is nothing wrong with figuring your life out while going to school.

# Bakersfield living: good or bad?

By Mason J. Rockfellow  
Reporter

By Elizabeth Castillo  
Editor in Chief

When I tell people I've been living in Bakersfield for the last 14 years, they ask me how the hell do I live in a town with nothing to do? Now I'll tell you how.

Bakersfield is a great place to live and has a lot to offer its residents and tourists from gorgeous weather to a wide variety of food and restaurants, professional sports teams, a community college and a California State University. Plus, it is easily in driving distance from L.A. and the Pacific Ocean.

Bakersfield has great weather pretty much year-round. Fall and winter tend to be short, while spring and summer tend to come early. Summer definitely dominates the majority of the year, leaving more than enough hot weather to go for a swim, bike ride, run or just barbecue with some friends and kick back a couple of local Lengthwise beers.

Lengthwise Brewing Company is one of Bakersfield's local microbreweries/restaurant with three locations spread across town. Lengthwise Brewing Company is one of my favorite places to go mingle with friends and have a couple beers.

Buck Owens Crystal Palace is a major tourist attraction for Bakersfield and sure does bring in the country folks. If you like live country music, good old country memorabilia, dancing and good food, then Buck Owens Crystal Palace is the place for you to be. If your stomach is in the mood for something a little more foreign, then Bakersfield has it covered. You can pretty much find anything ranging from authentic Mexican restaurants to small Korean barbecue joints and pho. Don't forget the all-so-popular restaurants such as Panera Bread, P.F. Chang's, California Pizza Kitchen and Elephant Bar; Bakersfield pretty much has it all.

If you want to watch sports, well, the Bakersfield Condors (hockey), Blaze (baseball), and Jam (basketball) schedules all complement each other so you can year-round.

Bakersfield is also the home to two great colleges. Bakersfield College is our community college, so if you're looking to snag an AA or your just looking to learn a trade, well, Bakersfield College provides that. If you are looking to further your education even after attending a community college or you want to jump right into the four year experience to snag a BA, MA, or PH.D, then CSUB is also available right across the way from the Lengthwise Brewing Company at the Marketplace in southwest Bakersfield, the perfect place to wind down after some heavy studying or a final exam.

Bakersfield is located a little over two hours east from Pismo Beach. Pismo Beach has seafood restaurants, such as Splash Café who is known for their clam chowder and we can't forget about the sand dunes, where people with motorcycles, quads, sand-rails and big trucks like to play around in the sand.

Don't forget that Bakersfield is also only two hours away from L.A., where Hollywood is and much more. Plus, let's not forget about the happiest place on earth, Disneyland.

When the most scenic view in town is a bunch of blinking oilfield lights, residents can tell that Bakersfield is still lacking that city feel, regardless of population size.

The frustrating absence of city nightlife in town is felt nearly every evening when looking for something fun to do and you come up pretty empty.

Let's start with movies. Sure there are several movie theaters in town that offer a fine selection of blockbusters or movies created by major film studios, but what about the indies? Yeah, Maya Cinemas infrequently shows an indie movie here

and there, and every once in a while the Fox Theater may show a cool flick, but if you can't make those very limited showings then moviegoers are just out of luck. This can be especially obnoxious for those who are fans of the Oscars, yet can't even watch many of the nominated films because Bakersfield's theaters don't feel the need to frequently show them.

OK, so Bakersfield can't keep up in the movie department, well there are

music venues. A very few amount of music venues that are still disappointing to many music fans. Rabobank Arena typically hosts Sesame Street and Disney on Ice but if you're looking for a show to watch that isn't filled with Elmo or Disney princesses, than a drive to L.A.

is in your future. A few big name musical acts may breeze through Bakersfield but this town only has two major genres: country and Spanish music. For listeners who don't always appreciate Miranda Lambert or want something a little different from Juanes, Bakersfield's arena just isn't the place for you. Even smaller venues have trouble finding national acts. B Ryder's tries to bring in different types of musicians but typically just appeases the masses and presents musicians who fall into country or cheesy classic rock tribute bands.

For those lucky residents who find something to do in town on a Thursday night, good luck finding a place to eat once it's over. Sure Bakersfield has a nice amount of eateries in different cuisines, but thanks to "Faith and Family" operational hours, if a diner is looking for some grub past 11 p.m., have fun with Denny's or fast food. Even Zingo's has changed their hours and are now closed more frequently, and no longer serve great breakfast and burgers 24/7.

Bakersfield residents who want to dance the night away, try not to get shot or stabbed after a fun night out. Many of the clubs in town may offer a decent selection in DJ's, hot hits, and even want you to dress your best but once the evening ends, there is typically some sort of gang fight or drunken fool wanting to cause unnecessary trouble. The limited nightlife that is available in Bakersfield typically isn't even worth all of the hazards.

Whether residents have lived here their whole life or moved here from somewhere else, unless you're a huge fan of out-of-town day trips, good luck finding something fun to do in your spare time.



ILLUSTRATION BY HUGO JAUREGUI / THE RIP

### PRO

### CON

### Movie Review

## 'McFarland, USA' sprints into an instant classic

By Mohamed Bafakih  
Sports Editor

For many years, I would drive northbound on Highway 99, and 20 minutes in I'd see a "Welcome to McFarland: The Heartbeat of Agriculture" sign and only one thing stood out: the barbed wire fence that housed inmates just off the highway.

However, there is far more to McFarland and its history than just a correctional facility and it being another rural Central Valley town, and luckily there is a movie to prove it.

Based on a true story, "McFarland, USA" is a Disney-based sports film on how a declining high school football coach, Jim White (Kevin Costner), from Boise, Idaho, found a full-time teaching and coaching opportunity in McFarland but only to realize that football isn't the forte for McFarland High School students – but rather cross country.

The biggest problem for White and

his wife and two young girls, was the change of region and demographics. With McFarland being a predominately Hispanic town, the adjusting process for White and his family was unbearable as Anglo-Americans.

For instance, White took his family out for something to eat on their first night upon arrival, and the only thing they stumbled across was a hole in the wall restaurant named "Tacos El Cazador" (which exists in McFarland). With expectations of finding pizza, the limitations of any type of food outside Hispanic were scarce – and moving to more upscale Bakersfield was far within reach.

White, who was originally brought in to be a Life Science and P.E. instructor along with being the assistant football coach, experienced hardships such as: pronouncing the students' names to getting them to listen to his instructions and not understanding the importance of picking crops.

Nevertheless, the picking is what led White and the McFarland High Cougars to win the first ever California Interscholastic Federation Cross Country State Championships in 1987.

The endurance and stamina to be able to begin your day at 4:30 a.m. and head straight to the fields in scorching hot temperatures then go to school afterward just shows the mental and physical capabilities which translated to cross country.

It made me proud of calling the Central Valley my home, and that it is possible to make something out of yourself despite your race or class.

Jim White was more than just a teacher or a coach to the seven student-athletes. He was a father figure to some, a mentor to most and a hero to the city of McFarland (and not to mention a nine-time state champion).

He was able to touch these students and embrace the culture around the town, which we need to do as well.



GOOGLE IMAGES

There is more to the Central Valley than just agriculture and that is what "McFarland, USA" does a great job of directing to.

It hits home and this is our home, as well – making us feel like we're in this movie together.



### Write The Rip

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

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

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

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Column

## The hip-hop and rap feud deciphered

Vanessa A. Munoz | Nessa's Music Rant

What is the difference between rap and hip-hop? Well, that would depend on who you ask. If you ask an adult over the age of 50, you will get a lot of negativity toward what is considered real music in general.

For the younger generation, most of them think the old stuff is lame and feel that rap music now is more diverse or that it's even better. What some don't differentiate in rap and hip-hop are the lyrics.

Yeah, some may say that hip-hop and rap have different beats and melodies to it, which is true in some cases. The fact is, musicians are now incorporating hip-hop rhythm with gangster rap. So the only thing that's left is the lyrics.

Hip-hop has long been a way to rhythmically say words together that will tell a story that the musician is sharing. Artists use it as a way to express themselves artistically without a paint brush or canvas being used. Take that and put it with a crazy beat from a skilled beat-boxer and you'll have a cool hip-hop track. Gangster rap took that concept and put a twist on self-expression by including the anger and frustration that was being dealt with by the musician at the time.

Where some people think this all went a little wrong was the message that was being said by these musicians. Hip-hop and early gangster rap went from a release of everyday life and problems to expressions of egotistical, hypocritical, obnoxious, superficial, and callous people who tell of how great it is to be a murderer, drug addict, alcoholic, and gangster. Not all, but the majority of rap today is this negative and angry.

All this is why we should be happy there still is hip-hop. It's the one form of rap music that never fails. Even with music transitioning into what it is today, hip-hop remains a lyrical surrender of the rapper that usually uplifts its audience and connects with its listeners. There isn't a need to praise the gangster life or drug addicts and hoers. Simple statements of frustration and crazy upbringings are something almost every person in the world can relate to. Even crazy ex's, parties and friends are relatable, but expressing psychotic thoughts and actions are best left at the psych-ward.

At times, you can catch a good beef between rappers. The most famous are coast-to-coast but the majority are within their own community. These types of rap battles can be taken in the wrong context and blown way out of proportion, giving all rap a bad name.

Media and crazed fans don't help, either. They can turn a simple "diss" into a life-threatening situation that affects the rappers and their fans. This type of attention is what makes rappers today famous. Whether the rapper is even talented or not is not even a factor, if they can make a track that can bring in more money, then that's all that matters. Rap and hip-hop have come a long way, and the change in them is sometimes unbearable.

With technology as high-tech as it is today, almost anyone can be a skilled beat-boxer. Being a lyrical genius with either a positive message or a good story is hard to come across in rap these days. So the big difference between rap and hip-hop: the message.

Restaurant Review

## Fieri's diner now open in Bakersfield

By Amber Hayden  
Online Editor

I have been anticipating the opening of Guy Fieri's restaurant Johnny Garlic's for the past month, and thankfully I was not let down at all.

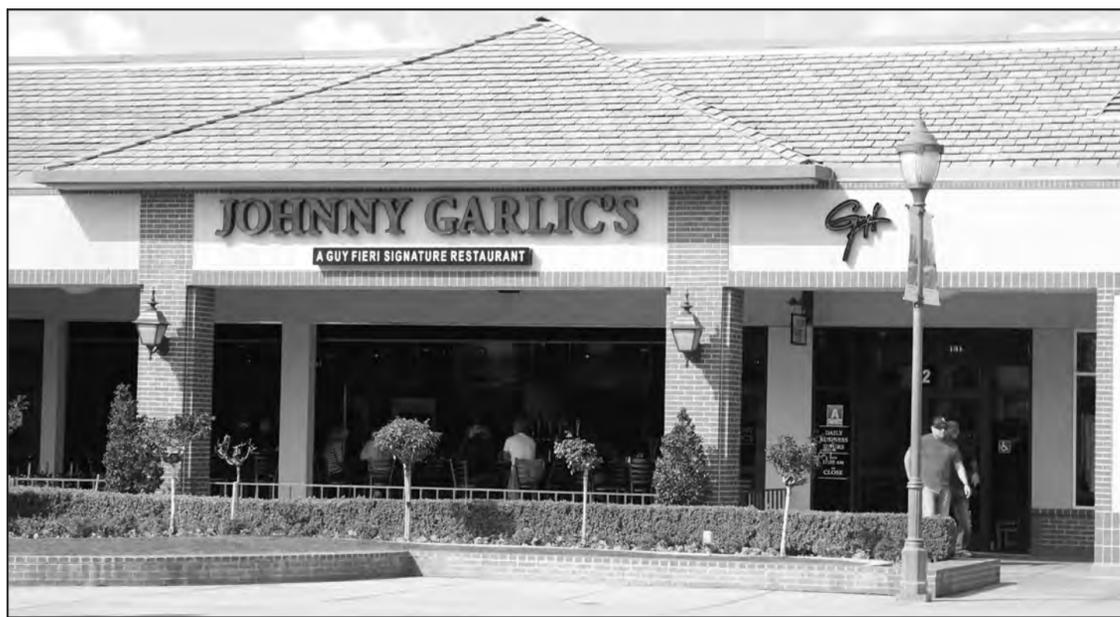
I made the choice to go on the opening night for it, but even so, the wait to be seated was far less than I had expected.

The waitress I had was very helpful when I was attempting to figure out what cocktail I wanted to start with. I chose the Vickie's Vixen, which is mainly a shot of cinnamon fireball and rum, but the best part was the fact it tasted like a piece of apple pie.

While you are waiting for your food, they bring you complimentary focaccia bread with olive oil and vinegar to dip it in. If you have never tried it before, I highly recommend even just tasting it before you dip the whole piece of bread in it, simply because it isn't always everyone's cup of tea.

The great thing about the breads and all of the food is it is all done by scratch in the kitchen that runs along two sides of the seating area. You can see the main kitchen through a long window in the dining area, which I thought was really cool because it allows you to see your food being cooked and what goes on in a kitchen.

I decided to be a little adventurous in my choice of entrée and tried the bacon mac-n-cheese



MASON J. ROCKFELLOW / THE RIP

Guy Fieri's signature restaurant, Johnny Garlic's, has been drawing in a crowd ever since opening its doors on Feb. 24.

burger with a side of garlic fries.

It was different but very tasty, and I usually ask for no pickles or onions on mine. But this time I decided to add them to the burger, and the pickles themselves are like nothing I have ever tasted or seen before. They were very thinly sliced and looked almost like cucumbers.

I personally could have eaten the pickles any time and been happy.

The garlic fries though, made

my night. No longer do I feel like I have to wait until I go to Dodger Stadium to get the one food that I love.

With my dessert, my friends and I decided to have another cocktail that we could all share. Thus enter the great idea that Johnny Garlic's has, the fish bowl.

It consisted of about four different alcohols as well as Sierra Mist and mango puree. It was worth the price of \$27 consider-

ing the size of the drink that you get.

I ordered the peanut butter and snickers bar ice cream pie for dessert. I felt like I would go into a sugar coma with how sweet it was, but the slice you get is rather big and if you can't manage to finish it all, they will box it up for you to take home.

The prices on some of the foods seem a little out of price range even for myself, but if you want a great burger, \$14.50 is the

normal price for most of them, except for maybe one or two.

I have no doubt that I will be going back to try some of their other menu items, including the Hunter's Creation. This part of the menu is always rotating depending on what type of wild game is being offered.

Johnny Garlic's is located in the back part of the Marketplace on Ming Avenue.

★★★★★

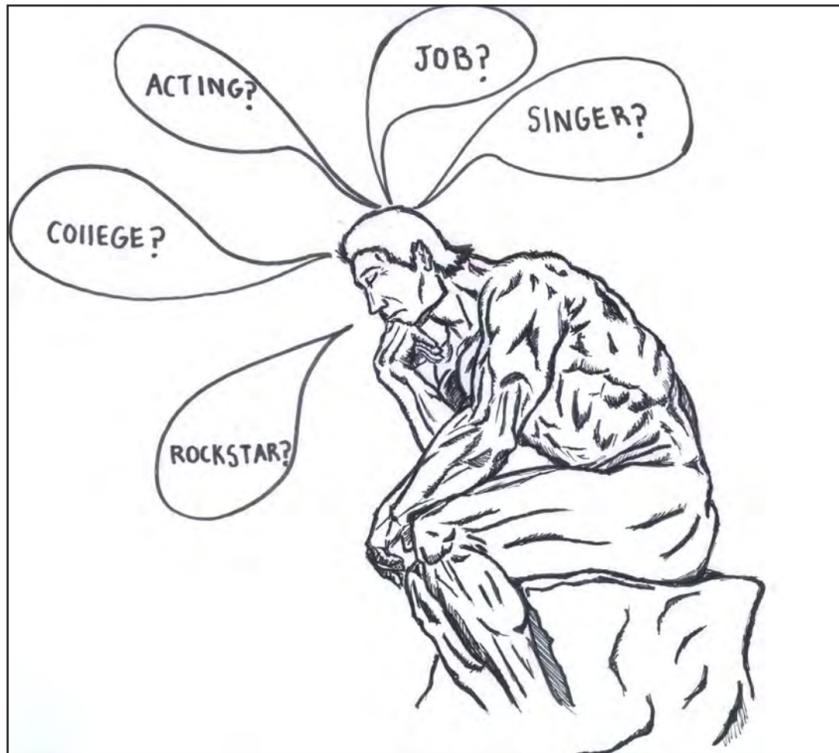


ILLUSTRATION BY HUGO JAUREGUI / THE RIP

## Craft your skills instead of trying to find your passion

By Javier Valdes  
Reporter

There is a misconception about passion and that upon the discovery of one's own, surely success and happiness will follow. This impression has led to confusion and angst within the younger generations and has served as the most common determinant of the typical quarter-life crisis.

There is a sense of entitlement that has plagued the younger communities with the assumption that we are somehow born with a pre-existing hidden passion that longs for discovery. This notion has led to a generation of youth, seeking for something that might not yet exist.

Many young adults have focused so much time trying to figure out what their pre-existing passion is, that they are wasting their 20s looking for something that is not there. Most of these young adults are seeking to focus on one of their many interests, that in the process, they are neglecting the reality of attaining career capital.

There is a skills-gap within

the education system and the competing workforce, and this is highly due to the fact that most of these students and young adults are too busy searching for their passions, that they have forgotten the importance of skill and how dexterity can be attained.

Skill is not something that one is born with, but something that grows through hard practice and experience. Skill is what the competing workforce is searching for and what can be a motivator for success.

The reality is that most young adults, in the search for pre-existing passions, usually use this search as an excuse for their unfulfilled goals. Most believe that if they just continue going to school or working a job just to get by, that one day some type of divine intervention will take over and everything will suddenly fall into place.

Unfortunately, the world doesn't work that way. It is for these reasons that following your passion can be dangerous. Most become so focused on just getting by and waiting for something to happen, that they forget

that time doesn't wait, and often by the time they realize this, it is already too late.

What most of these pre-existing passion searchers need to learn is how to hustle and develop the determination to succeed. They need to learn to do whatever needs to be done in order to attain their goals.

Success requires determination and hard work that most of us are too lazy to provide. We need to begin to focus less on finding our passion, and more on building our skills and putting in the work needed to reach our goals.

Most of us believe that we are destined for success, but the truth is that we make our own successes. It is up to us to abandon the pre-existing passion mentality and focus on getting out there to work on achieving our goals and stop waiting for them to just happen.

We can all begin to develop useful skills that can be used to attain a desired goal and maybe then we will find the passion most of us have always been searching for.

Record Review

## A punk band goes classic in new album

By Elizabeth Castillo  
Editor in Chief

Six studio albums into their career, Screaming Females turn down the lo-fi and turn up refinement with their latest record, "Rose Mountain." The album is much less punk — which may surprise some fans — but is extremely well-executed. The album sounds more like a modern take on classic rock but is done so expertly, that it doesn't come across as cheesy or unnecessarily theatrical.

Case in point is the band's highly successful closing track, "Criminal Image." The song has a nicely paced intro, and when frontwoman Marissa Paternoster begins to sing the track's well-crafted lyrics, fans can hear her many different vocal styles throughout.

Halfway through the song, listeners get an unexpected piano joining the already strong instrumentation. The short piano cameo adds a bluesy feel to the song but is then replaced by heavy guitars assuring listeners the song hasn't lost its bite. At a hefty five minutes and 19 seconds, the track provides listeners with an epic closer that doesn't disappoint. Paternoster also gets to shred through the end of the song, and the outro leaves listeners craving for more successful heavy rock.

While this is a strong rock album, not every track is filled with a heavy head-banger sound. The most surprising song on the album is definitely "Wishing Well," which is ridiculously poppy. The thing about Paternoster is that her powerhouse vocals could probably stand up well in today's range of pop divas and hot hits, but thankfully, she uses her vocals for louder purposes. On "Wishing Well," though, the band combines catchy pop melodies with playful lyrics about being broke because of tossing too



GOOGLE IMAGES

many coins into the mythical wishing well. This track almost sounds like surf pop and is a major change of pace for the historically punk band. While different, the song is still executed nicely and informs fans of the scope of the band's talent.

"Hopeless" is another song that is a bit more gentle and Paternoster sings about not being "hopeless, or helpless" although a lost love has her feeling that way. The track is another sweet song on the album that softens up the other heavier tracks, like "Triumph."

The album's title track has a nice and controlled intro, which provides a nice build-up to the song. "Rose Mountain" can at times seem too controlled but thankfully the song takes a nice and unexpected turn towards the end. A lo-fi piano ends the song on an odd and eerie note. The piano fades away into creepy dissonance but provides the song with a unique twist. The piano adds nicely to the overall instrumentation and ensures that "Rose Mountain" isn't as sweet as some of the other tracks on the album.

Overall, this record is very controlled, refined and polished, which is surprising coming from this band. Although this album drifts from the punk sound Screaming Females is known for, their talent still shines through and provides fans with a pleasant and notable album. ★★★★★☆

# BC basketball playoff run cut short

By Mohamed Bafakih  
Sports Editor

The 2014-15 men's basketball season is officially in the books now, and there's a lot for head coach Rich Hughes and assistant coach Aaron Chávez to be proud of after their respective 10 years of coaching at Bakersfield College.

It was a whirlwind season, which included just five returners and officially began on Nov. 13 against L.A. Trade Tech ending in a three-overtime thriller with the Renegades falling short, 88-85.

The resilience of the team played a role early on, however, as they'd win 10 of their next 13 games heading into the new year and conference play with breakout performances by 6-foot-9 freshman Deandre Dickson and freshman point guard Jameik Riviere (mostly coming off the bench).

Although the Renegades started conference play 2-1, the second half of January dwindled as they went on to lose four straight games and odds in favor of them going five straight years without a playoff appearance.

Nevertheless, before the start of the second half of conference play against L.A. Valley on Jan. 30, Hughes told his guys that "we're 0-0 now" and to move forward from the losing streak.

The team rallied together and bought in as they'd reverse the four-game losing streak to a six-game winning streak to put them in playoff contention.

Despite not being able to cap off a perfect second half of conference as the Renegades dropped to the state's seventh-ranked Marauders of Antelope Valley on Feb. 21 76-71, it was enough to earn them a trip into the postseason and ending the program's four-year drought without a playoff appearance.

BC was given the 18-seed in



AMBER HAYDEN / THE RIP

BC swingman and WSC South MVP Deandre Dickson (23) floats it over three AVC defenders in the conference finale.

the So-Cal Regional Playoffs and faced (15) L.A. Pierce College (17-12) on Feb. 25 in the first round.

This would be a rematch for the teams as they faced one another in the preseason at Pierce College where the Renegades dominated the Brahmas behind Dickson's 18-point, 18-rebound performance and Riviere's 16 points and seven assists, 72-54.

This meeting meant a lot more than the prior meeting, of course, so Pierce was locked in.

BC came in allowing 59.8 points in the last seven games, but gave up a season-high 95

points to the Brahmas.

Despite 18 of those points coming in overtime, this was still much higher than Hughes' goal of holding teams to 60 points.

Just like in the first meeting, the Renegades were led by Dickson and Riviere who combined for 61 of the team's 91 points. Riviere totaled a season-high 34 points to go along with eight rebounds and eight assists while Dickson finished with 27 points, 10 rebounds and six assists, but it wasn't enough as the Brahmas ended the Renegades' run, 95-91.

Despite getting bounced in the first round of the regional playoffs, Dickson would finish the season among the elite in the state with averages of 18 points per game (12th), 11.8 rebounds per game (3rd), 2.5 blocks per game (7th) while shooting 49 percent from the field and tallying 505 points on the season – good enough for a Western State Conference South MVP title.

Riviere also grabbed a First Team All-WSC South honor. Riviere began the season as a sixth man, but would deserve to earn a starting spot averaging just under 20 points per game

during conference.

Also making the list for the Renegades was freshman forward C.J. Johnson and sophomore guard Isaiah Rogers as honorable mentions.

With three of four players making the list for conference honors as freshmen, then adding the key returners in Lawrence Moore and Dequan Green along with the remaining core and possibly adding a few more freshmen to contribute, anticipations will be high for Bakersfield College men's basketball heading into the offseason.

## Men's golf falls

By Marcus Castro  
Reporter

Bakersfield College men's golf is looking for answers early on in the season.

The team had a home event at Rio Bravo Country Club on Feb. 23.

Canyons once again took first place with a team score of 386. The BC men's team placed fifth with a team score of 420.

"We've been there all year and we need to improve," said coach Bob Paillet.

Santa Barbara City College's Jonny Hogan placed first as an individual with a score of 71 as Jeremy Choi led BC with a score of 80.

"He's [Choi] not up to his normal standards but he'll bounce back," said Paillet.

Brad Chamberlain shot an 81. "He just made a couple of mistakes but overall he played good. I see him doing well over the second half of the season," said Paillet.

Jerran Walter shot an 83, Tal Pruett shot an 87, and Browdy Carroll shot an 89.

The team played in the Pt. Conception Open on March 1-2. This was a two-day event that was played at two separate courses.

Once again Hogan of SBCC took the top spot of the tournament shooting a 69 at both courses, leading his team to a second place score of 763. BC men would place 14th overall with a score of 853.

BC hopes to bounce back at Ventura College on March 9 and at Peterson on March 16.



ELIAS C. AHUMADA / THE RIP

Bakersfield's Conner Smith throws a pitch to Golden West's batter. The Rustlers would beat BC 8-5 in extra innings.

## BC baseball ends preseason five-game losing streak; now looks to head into conference with momentum

By Mohamed Bafakih  
Sports Editor

Enjoying the longest break in between games of the season at 10 days, the Renegades baseball team (5-7) took the diamond on March 3 to open up conference play at Citrus (6-6-1) where results can be seen on www.therip.com/sports.

Prior to the conference opener, Bakersfield College most recently took on Golden West in a three-game series beginning on Feb. 19.

On the break, head coach Tim Panton doesn't find it very useful.

"Time off is not a good thing in baseball... it doesn't help us prepare for an opponent," Panton said.

However, the team did some preparation as they held an intrasquad game twice last week.

The preseason hasn't been rather friendly for Bakersfield as they have lost multiple close games and even had a stretch of five consecutive losses before its most recent victory on the final game of a three-game home series from Feb. 19-21 and final preseason game with Golden West.

Just like last year, Golden West would get the better end as

they went 2-1 for the weekend.

On the first night, sophomore left-hand pitcher Joe Bresson took the mound and pitched a decent seven innings, but with hitting being the Achilles heel for the Renegades, the Rustlers managed to hold BC to just two runs. Golden West wound up winning 4-2.

On the second night, both teams were scoreless until the 10th inning where both teams managed to score five runs.

James Stea and Dillion Persi of the Rustlers helped add three more runs and getting away from the Renegades once again, 8-5.

In the third and final meeting between both teams, BC would add a victory into the win column as they'd go on to beat Golden West 7-6.

"Even though we lost that second game, it was a turning point for us because we came out and performed better offensively on the third game of the series," Panton would say.

After facing Citrus, the Renegades will be back home to face L.A. Mission (6-6) at 2 p.m. on March 5 at Gerry Collis Field and then head to Glendale (4-10) to finish the week on March 7.

Column

## Homeless to being hopeless

MOHAMED BAFAKIH | Going beneath the shield

"Salsa Nacho" as Waco knows him, or better known as Silas Nacita here in Bako, has been heard on the national stage over the past few months.

Former standout football player and wrestler at Bakersfield High School, Nacita was an all-around class act.

Nacita maintained a 4.1 GPA in the classroom as a senior in 2012 and led the Drillers to a Valley title during that time.

Luckily I was fortunate enough to interview him multiple times for Bakersfield High's Blue&White, during our years at BHS.

One thing I didn't know, along with many others who kept up with him, was what now everybody knows: Silas Nacita's trials dealing with homelessness.

I looked at him as a first class student-athlete whose family is as proud of him as any parent can be – a student first, an athlete second but excelling at both to the highest level.

As SI.com's Ken Rodriguez first reported on Dec. 30, 2014 – days before Nacita and the Baylor Bears took on Michigan State in the Cotton Bowl inside football's most prime stadium (AT&T Stadium) – in Sports Illustrated's "Inspirations" piece, when Nacita really took flight in the sports world.

Sports Illustrated months earlier revealed that there are nearly 100,000 homeless athletes around the country, but this one person who we thought had it all was part of this number.

"Everyone saw me as a kid who had his life together with sports and academics... but nobody knew what was happening inside or at home. I lived in the shadows," Nacita told SI.

I watched him sign his letter of intent to play at Ivy League's Cornell University on a scholarship. I even believed that his talent was far superior than the Ivy League level, so seeing him transfer to Big 12 powerhouse and a nationally accredited Christian university in Baylor was an absolute perfect fit.

But it wasn't one of those easy transfers. Nacita grew distant from his family, especially with his mother during his time at Cornell, but the distance of being 2,700 miles away played a factor.

Prior to getting into Baylor, he waited tables 40 hours a week and completed courses online at Waco's McLennan Community College while moving around from one friend to another's apartment just to have a roof over his head.

Finally at Baylor, Nacita walked-on and made the football team as a backup running back. He became an instant sensation as "Salsa Nacho" despite his limited role around Waco.

A kid with big dreams to play football from Bakersfield finally made it.

However, his homelessness became the reason why the NCAA declared him ineligible and why we won't be seeing him in a Bears uniform as a senior.

Although Nacita admits he broke the NCAA rules by living with friends and receiving typical housing benefits, how could you allow anyone, athlete or not, to be living desperately and wondering where you'll be keeping a roof over your head night-to-night?

The NCAA clearly needs some justification to allow a player who is dealing with homelessness to receive the proper assistance needed.

Nacita would tweet the following regarding his future after being ruled ineligible: "I am taking it one step at a time, but I look forward to continuing my studies this semester as a student at Baylor."

Nacita has been an inspiration to all and will always have a home in Bakersfield and our hearts.

# BC women are no longer undefeated

By Mason J. Rockfellow  
Reporter

The Bakersfield College softball team's win streak has come to an end.

The Renegades, now 7-2, played host to Moorpark, Southwestern, Cypress, and Mt. San Antonio College in the Bakersfield Classic Tournament on Feb. 21-22.

The Renegades lost twice in a row on Feb. 21, first to Moorpark College, who is tied for second with Cuesta in the Western State Gold division. It was a close game that came down to the final inning when Moorpark batted in three runs for the win, 11-9. The Renegades second loss was to Mt. SAC 10-3, with the Renegades totaling nine fielding errors. Mt. SAC is also second in

the South Coast division.

The next day, the Renegades faced off against Southwestern College. In the third inning, Southwestern scored two runs in the top of the third to get the early lead, but in the bottom of the third, the Renegades scored 12 runs, allowing the lineup to test out three of Southwestern's pitchers.

In the inning, Brooke Quid-

dam and Vanessa Moralez hit home runs and both picked up an RBI. Alex Avila hit a triple that picked up two RBI on her second at-bat that inning after earlier hitting a double, and Erin Huckaby smacked a double to bring in two more RBIs.

The Renegades scored once more in the fourth when Zaily Luna hit a double to bring in Huckaby for an RBI.

The Renegades were able to hold Southwestern off by only allowing in two more runs and secured the win 13-4.

The next matchup was against Cypress College, but Mother Nature got in the way and rained out the game.

The game against Cypress has been rescheduled to be played at Cypress College at 1 p.m. on March 8.

The following weekend, the Renegades were scheduled for a doubleheader against San Bernardino Valley College, but those games were canceled as well.

The Renegades are scheduled to play at Glendale College on March 5, at Citrus College on March 10, Santa Monica College here at home on March 12, and College of the Canyons in Santa Clarita on March 17.



ELIAS C. AHUMADA / THE RIP

Jessica Campbell led the 1,500-meter run for the entire duration and took first place with a time of 4 minutes 45.89 seconds. She later finished first in the 3,000-meter run with a time of 10:45.76 during the Western State Conference North meet at Bakersfield College.

## Lady Renegades dominate in track and field

By Marcus Castro  
Reporter

Bakersfield College women's track and field team continues to dominate as the BC men's team continues to improve.

The Renegades hosted the Western State Conference North meet on Feb. 27 where six teams competed.

The BC women's team dominated the meet with a team score of 209. The team closest to the BC women's team was College of the Canyons with a team score of 129.

"It was a very strong meet. We had a lot of very good performances by a lot of people," said head coach Pam Kelley.

Kyra and Tyra Saunders took the top two spots in the 100-meter dash. Kyra took first with a time of 12.10 seconds, and Tyra took second with a time of 12.45.

"I PR'd [personal record] in both of my races so far, so I feel good," said Tyra.

Kyra, Tyra, and Nicole Lewis took the top three spots in the 200-meter dash. Kyra took first with a time of 25.43 seconds, Lewis finished second with a time of 25.92, and Tyra finished third with a time of 26.08.

"I'm pretty excited. I PR'd in both of my races with a hurt hip," said Kyra.

Lewis finished first in the 400-meter dash with a time of 59.13 seconds. "I feel really good. I got what I wanted which was under a minute, and I won," said Lewis.

The BC women's 4x100-meter A-relay team, consisting of Lewis, Kyra, Liliana Portillo, and Tyra, took second place in the 4x100-meter relay with a time of 49.09 seconds.

The BC women's 4x400-meter A-relay team, consisting of Lewis, Portillo, Tyra, and Leah Theroux, placed first in the 4x400-meter relay with a time of 4 minutes 15.76 seconds.

Theroux finished first place in the 800-meter run with a time of 2 minutes 23.05 seconds.

Theroux said, "I was out there too long. I got first place, but I wanted a better time."

Jessica Campbell took first in the 1,500-meter run with a time of 4 minutes 45.89 seconds. Before the 3,000-meter run she explained that she wasn't sure how she'd do because she is more of a mid-distance runner, but she proved her doubts wrong, as she took first in the 3,000 with a time of 10:45.76.

Amanda Reyes took first place in the discus throw with a distance of 35.71 meters.

The BC men's team had a harder time at the meet than the women did, but the men have showed improvement since the last meet. They finished fourth out of six teams.

Austin Varner placed second in the 400-meter dash with a time of 49.75 seconds.

The BC men's 4x400 A-relay team, consisting of Donaldo Mendivil, Jesus De alba Diaz, Marjon Francisco, and Austin Varner, took first place in the 4x400-meter relay with a time of 3 minutes 25.83 seconds.



ELIAS C. AHUMADA / THE RIP

Kyra Saunders anchored the 4x100-meter relay race to start the day, helping the team place second. She later took first place in the 100-meter dash and the 200-meter dash.

Chikerrian Garrett placed first in the hammer throw with a distance of 127 feet 5 inches. Edgar Llanes placed second in the pole vault with a height of 13 feet 6.25 inches.

The BC track team competed in the WSC relays on Feb. 20 where there were many different types of relays for teams to compete in.

The BC women's 4x100-meter A-relay team took second place in the 4x100-meter relay with a time of 49.20 seconds.

The BC women's 4x400-meter A-relay team placed second in the 4x400-meter relay with a time of 4 minutes 6.93 seconds.

The BC women's 4x800-meter A-relay team took second place with a time of 10 minutes 4.77 seconds.

The BC women's 800-meter sprint medley A-relay team finished in second with a time of 1

minute 51.09 seconds.

The BC women's 4,000-meter distance medley A-relay team took first place with a time of 12 minutes 28.72 seconds.

Lewis placed first in the long jump with a distance of 16 feet 3.75 inches.

The BC men's team didn't place in the top three in nearly as many events as the women did, but they had a couple events they did well in.

The BC men's 4x400-meter A-relay team finished in second place in the 4x400-meter relay with a time of 3 minutes 26.35 seconds.

Dillen Littles took third place in the discus throw with a distance of 39.94 meters.

The BC track team will be at home for the BC Relays on March 7 and on the road for the Modesto 5-way meet that will be in Modesto on March 13.

## Swimmers dive into a dual meet

By Mohamed Bafakih  
Sports Editor

Before returning back to L.A. Valley this past weekend for a dual swim meet featuring Bakersfield College, Citrus, L.A. Valley, Santa Barbara and Santa Monica, the Renegade swim teams participated in the 30th Annual Mt. San Antonio College Swimming and Diving Invitational from Feb. 19-21.

Alongside 16 other schools, BC took third overall combining for 939 points (women-390, men-549) – only behind El Camino College (1,025 points) and the host Mt. SAC (1,304 points).

On the women's end, Lexi Zimmerman led the team with 77 total points in her six events, while Sara Klang added 67 points in her six events. Briana Smith also competed for BC in six events finishing with 46 points helping the women to a fifth place finish.

For the men, they took second overall with 548.5 points led by Mikey Fink's 76 points. Mt. SAC won with a total score of 899.5 points.

Continuing their early season success before the Cuesta Invitational from March 5-7, the Renegade swim teams performed well once again at L.A. Valley.

It was nearly a sweep for both teams, but the only loss came on the men's end as they lost their dual against Santa Monica by six points.

"For who we took, everyone stepped up and did very well," head coach Matt Moon said.

The Cuesta Invitational will feature more schools than the recent invitational at L.A. Valley, but BC Swimming will look to face more competition to begin March.

## The struggle continues for BC tennis teams

By Daniel Ojeda  
Contributing Editor

A tumultuous season continued for the Bakersfield College tennis teams as both squads continued to struggle at the season's midway point.

Despite a losing streak of five consecutive matches and placing fifth at the Modesto JC Tournament, the men's tennis team currently finds itself in third place in the Western State division, behind first place Ventura College (2-0) and Glendale College (2-1).

The Renegades (1-1) ended the longest losing streak of the season by taking advantage against the divisions worst, beating LA Pierce College by the score of 6-3.

The men's tennis team has improved as the season has bounced along and the overall record isn't an accurate representation of the improved play. BC has faced off against good tennis teams and have been able to compete, dropping close matches against Fresno City (5-1) by the score of 5-4 and another close set against Mt. SAC (7-4) by the same score. The other losses were blowout wins by the opposition, with BC losing 8-1 against undefeated Foothill College (6-0) and being held scoreless against Glendale.

The lady Renegades continued the slide the team has been on all season as the losing streak reached nine games.

The skid has left the Renegades in last place with a conference record of 0-4 and an overall record of 0-9.

The women's team has also had a tough schedule as of late, facing powerhouse Mt. SAC (12-0) and division leader Glendale (4-0) while being held scoreless in both matches.

The BC tennis teams will look to turn their fortunes around as the men's team is home for the next three matches against Ventura on March 3, Glendale on March 10 and LA Pierce on March 17, while the women's team hits the road for the next two matches against Ventura and Glendale.

# Marley's Mutts looks to find forever homes

By Marcus Castro  
Reporter

Before Zach Skow and his rescue organization, Marley's Mutts, started rescuing "death row" dogs, Skow was the one who needed rescuing.

"I wasn't used to doing anything without alcohol or drugs. I was scared of everything, absolutely petrified," said Skow.

Marley's Mutts is a non-profit organization where Skow and his crew rescue dogs from Kern County's animal shelter. Kern County's animal shelter has one of the highest killing rates in the nation due to the high volume of animals they receive.

Skow has had dogs in his household most of his life. He also started in dog rescue in 2005 with the Humane Society. But these are not the reasons why he now rescues dogs.

From an early age, Skow was heavily addicted to drugs and alcohol. Being intoxicated was his norm and when he was not intoxicated he felt out of place in every aspect of life.

"Being physically addicted really prevented me from succeeding in anything I tried," said Skow.

Skow estimated that he's attended 10 schools including Bakersfield College.

"I drank in class. I drank in the parking lot at BC. I'd go to the liquor store around the corner and just fill up a cup with vodka or just beer. I'd buy an Old English 40. Then brush my teeth in the parking lot. Just ghetto and shady shit," said Skow.

Skow was 23 when he realized that he was physically addicted to alcohol.

"I tried to go one day without drinking, and I went into full blown withdrawal," said Skow. "Alcohol withdrawal is the most dangerous type of withdrawal. It can kill you."

Skow had to go to the hospital, and they told him he needed a medically aided detox. He said, "I don't plan on not drinking I just plan on going one day ... are you crazy?"

Shortly after that, Skow's liver failed. He spent two months at Bakersfield Memorial Hospital. He then got transferred to Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Beverly Hills where he, coincidentally, was born. Cedars-Sinai

is one of seven transplant hospitals in California.

Skow needed a liver transplant but had to be sober for six months before his body was healthy enough to accept the liver.

"Day in and day out things were just as bad as they could get physically," said Skow.

Skow was going through alcohol withdrawal, causing him to vomit and defecate blood often. He also had a catheter in his back that drained his stomach.

Skow began writing a journal and walking Marley, Tug, and Buddy, rescue dogs from the Humane Society, every day.

There was a time when he felt that he didn't want to be alive.

"The only way I could get my confidence up to not just put a bullet in my face was with my dogs," said Skow. "They helped me face each day. We're going to do this, it's not just you."

One of Skow's struggles while being sober was that he didn't know how to properly socialize. The dogs helped him with socializing because he didn't feel as self-conscious when the dogs were with him.

Skow traded his addiction of drugs and alcohol with health and exercise. The health choices and exercising with the dogs began to slowly and then quickly help him get physically better.

"I took trying to live like I took after alcohol and drugs," said Skow.

When the six months was up and he was eligible for a transplant, he no longer needed one. With the help of the dogs, he ended up rehabbing his liver.

Skow realized that the dogs rescued him when he needed to be rescued so he then decided to take a page out of Canine Canyon Ranch's book and returned the favor by rescuing dogs.

"My biggest dream is to have a human and dog rescue side by side," said Skow.

In May of 2009, he incorporated Marley's Mutts. Marley is one of the dogs that rescued Skow, and that is why Skow named the dog rescue Marley's Mutts.

Marley is the pack leader of Marley's Mutts. He breaks up all the fights and keeps everything in order in the pack. "He's 13 now, but he is still a 'G'," said Skow.

Marley's Mutts has received a lot of recognition across the world with fans in 44 countries.



MARCUS CASTRO / THE RIP

Zach Skow, owner of Marley's Mutts, spends time with dogs Baloo and Maggie in the wilderness of Tehachapi Feb. 28.

Marley's Mutts has adopted out around 250 dogs as of the end of 2014. They are already exceeding that number this year with the addition of transporting dogs out of state via airplanes.

Marley's Mutts and Skow have gotten involved with a lot of people and places in the community.

Skow has been working with well-known dog trainer Cesar Millan. "Working with Cesar Millan has been awesome," said

Skow.

Skow is working on getting a rehabilitation program going with the Kern County Sheriff Department. It is slow going, but Skow hopes to have a program where the inmates help rehabilitate the rescue dogs and in the process the dogs rehabilitate the inmates.

Miracle Mutts is an educational program that Marley's Mutts has. Miracle Mutts goes to as many schools as possible to edu-

cate students.

Miracle Mutts has an event at Beale Library every other Wednesday called Barks and Books. This event is for children who have a hard time reading.

"In order to succeed in school you have to be able to read out loud," said Skow.

The Barks and Books event has the kids read out loud to the dogs. Skow explained that if you ask the kids to read to an adult they won't do it, but when you

ask them to read to the dogs, they will. The kids feel that people will judge them while they read out loud, but they feel no judgment from the dogs.

They have a Barks and Books event specifically geared to help first-generation English speakers read out loud.

Skow explained how the community of Bakersfield is amazing and thanks them for being so caring and supportive of him and Marley's Mutts.

**"The only way I could get my confidence up to not just put a bullet in my face was with my dogs."**

**—Zach Skow,  
Owner of Marley's Mutts**



PHOTOS BY MARCUS CASTRO / THE RIP

Skow relaxes with his mastiffs, Baloo and Maggie, in the Tehachapi wilderness. Skow started Marley's Mutts in 2009, named for his dog Marley that he credits for saving him. To date Marley's Mutts has helped rescue 250 dogs and helped them find forever homes.

