

The Renegade Rip

BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE

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Declining gas prices raises questions

By Carl E. Littleberry Jr.
Reporter

All over California, people have enjoyed surprisingly low gas prices since the start of 2016. Even in Bakersfield, the average cost of a tank of gas has lowered from \$2.93 to \$2.23 a gallon.

With some stations even dropping to below \$2 a gallon, many Californians haven't found much to complain about lately, gas-wise.

But the question on many local people's minds, including Bakersfield College student Aaron Richards, 27, is "Where the hell did these low prices come from?"

The puppeteers pulling the strings behind these mysterious drops in many gas chains' prices across California would be the California Tax Board.

In 2010, California drivers were overtaxed for gas to help shoulder the state's budget deficits accumulated in the five years prior.

On Feb. 23 the board voted to lower the tax by 2.2 cents per gallon by a vote of 3-2.

Although these prices only apply to the fiscal year ending in July of 2017, it is still deemed a step forward by local Fastrip worker Riley Dawkins, 24.

"Because of these low gas prices I'm getting way more hours than normal," said Dawkins, "probably because more and more people are stopping for gas

more regularly considering how low it is."

After polling California campuses, CNN.com reported California students could save on average of \$540 dollars a year.

According to many BC students, these lowered gas prices have helped them save extra money for other necessities like food and school supplies. After hearing the news, BC student and mother of one Jasmine Nunez was more than excited about the thought of saving over \$500 a year.

"I could really use that extra money on so many things. You really have no idea. That's thousands of diapers and basically two months of groceries," said Nunez. "Plus, gas kills me everyday. Do you know how much gas it takes to get here from Lebec three times a week?"

Although these gas prices might be good for some, they are not good for all. Consider that Chevron laid off 300 local oil industry workers. That is a direct result of the lowered gas prices in the area.

Ray Henrickson, 38, a Bakersfield native who had worked in the oil business for the last 13 years, was laid off in late October of 2015.

"We didn't even get too much of a warning," said Henrickson. "Just a thank you for one-third of your life, but now you need to go. To be honest it was like a real slap in the face."



JACOB TOVAR / THE RIP

Gas prices have been dropping for the past couple months and most people seem to be taking advantage while it's here.

Even though there seem to be mixed reviews on the gas prices, Henrickson says he appreciates what the government is trying to do.

"I mean, when you're in the

industry you know how it works. And I'm not going to complain about only needing to use \$40 bucks on my Raptor now," said Henrickson.

For BC students looking for

the lowest gas prices, the Fastrip on Mt. Vernon has the lowest in town at \$1.79 a gallon. For those students looking for low gas prices around town, all gas prices can be found on Bakers-

fieldgasprices.com.

Experts predict gas prices will rise more than 20 cents per gallon in the first few weeks of March, but they will still be lower than they were six months ago.



JAMES MACIAS / THE RIP

Professor Roy Clark Allard demonstrates his advanced robotic drone for a group of students from Taft.

BC hosts a day of engineering

By James Macias
Reporter

The Bakersfield College Panorama Campus is usually almost eerily empty on Fridays, except when there is something very special going on like what happened last week on Feb. 26. They called it Engineering Day, and it was the first time it has ever been held at BC.

Starting at about 7 a.m., a host of unfamiliar figures dressed alternately in formal wear, like suits and khakis, or blue jumpsuits somewhat reminiscent something a Star Trek character might wear, began to arrive on campus with all manner of equipment in tow.

These strangers proceeded to

arrange a small expo of sorts for the deluge of high school age kids from all over Kern County who would soon converge on BC.

They were coming to see drones flown by the electrical engineering department and hot rods built at the auto shop. From the look of things, no expense was spared in putting on a show on for the kids. There was even an exhibit from Edwards AFB which simulated - accurately - the flight characteristics of an F-22 Raptor, the current pinnacle of American supersonic jet fighter technology.

Jack Earl, 55, a private contractor working as an engineer at Edwards AFB, relished pointing Please see **ENGINEERING**, Page 5

BC four-year program

By Carl E. Littleberry Jr.
Reporter

Bakersfield College's Science Department held an informational meeting Feb. 27 to introduce its new pilot program to BC students. Sean Caras, BC engineering professor, was on hand with Cynthia Quintanilla to discuss how students can apply for a four-year Baccalaureate Degree in Industrial Automation.

The four-year bachelor's degree in Industrial Automation at BC was approved early last year, and at the time, BC expected to start classes in Fall 2015. Students in attendance at the February meeting learned about requirements for enrollment and details about the program.

This new degree focuses on the application of electronics and computer technology to in-

dustrial automation systems. According to Caras, this program breaks up into two-levels consisting of upper and lower divisions of classes. This will better prepare students for careers as a technologist, combining the jobs of both a technician and an engineer into one.

With a focus on careers in Industrial Automation, this particular degree offers BC students a wide assortment of job opportunities in the surrounding areas. Ranging from petroleum, manufacturing, logistics and agriculture, each class would prepare students for more of a detailed approach to automation, eventually culminating in a senior project for the second-year students. That project will involve working hands-on with local businesses in a working environment solving or creating whatever the

business states.

Caras does, however, go on to mention that the requirements for enrollment and the time constraints for classes can be hard on some. Considering the fact that all classes are offered at night is troublesome for those with other commitments.

"I understand that night classes are hard for some. However, we have plenty of funding now," said Caras. The science department received \$250,000 in funding, which they have already used to supply the labs with more workstations to accommodate for more students.

"I love spending taxpayer money, when it's warranted at least," said Caras.

The classes themselves require that you apply during two tier periods. Tier one is for first Please see **FOUR-YEAR**, Page 5

Earthquake gives Bakersfield residents a shaky surprise

By Marcus Castro
Contributing editor

With the earthquake that took place on Feb. 23, Bakersfield College is believed to be prepared for an earthquake.

"Everybody knows what they're doing and where they're supposed to go. The safety managers, when everybody is out will come and check rooms, so I would say absolutely," said Geology professor Jack Pierce when asked about BC's readiness for an earthquake.

The earthquake on Feb. 23 was located in Wasco, but it did not fall on any major fault lines. The earthquake was a magni-

tude 4.9.

Pierce explained that California is "just one big fracture area" and that California has multiple major faults through the state. He mentioned that the fault that we need to start looking out for is the San Andreas Fault.

When the Wasco earthquake happened, people expressed their fears through social media.

"You can't predict earthquakes, so when they do happen society gets a little bit scared. Having the ground shake beneath you, you feel a kind of insecure," said Pierce. "I think the best thing to do is to research and make sure you

understand all of the different safety suggestions for during an earthquake."

Pierce explained that earthquakes cannot be predicted by scientists. He said that there is a statistical method used to determine the frequency of a fault.

Pierce went to explain that people should listen to what the safety instructions are. He said to get under your desk or table and watch for falling debris.

"Bakersfield College has a pretty good program for disaster to take place.

When they have the earthquake drills, I think students should take them very seriously," said Pierce.

Play takes students back in time

By Misty Severi
Reporter

The year is 1811. Well, at least it is for the cast of Bakersfield College's Spring play "Sense and Sensibility," as they prepared themselves for the final week of rehearsal before the play opens on March 9.

The cast will be speaking in British accents, with all the mannerisms of early 19th century English high society.

"I wanted to give my actors all a great challenge. They had to learn all the mannerisms of the English upper class," said director Kimberly Chin.

"They had to learn to sit up straight, how to carry themselves in a different way, and how to not use all the modern hand gestures and movements. And I think that's moved over to their real life, I'll see them walking and carrying themselves more elegantly and gracefully."

Based on Jane Austen's first novel, "Sense and Sensibility," the story revolves around Elinor and Marianne Dashwood, two sisters who manage to find love despite all the emotional turmoil and constantly changing circumstances they are forced to endure due to the death of their father.

"This is a love story, and who doesn't love a love story?" said Warren Dakota Nash, who plays Edward Ferrars, the awkward, shy love interest of Elinor Dashwood.

"The guys can bring their dates, and the girls can come crying and enjoy the show. It's a play of heart and mind, and it's really cool."

Shelbe McCain, 18, plays Marianne Dashwood, the younger sister of Elinor.

"Marianne is very flirty," began Shelbe, "and she changes



Martin Arroyo, Andrea Watson, and Shelbe McCain rehearse their lines for their upcoming performance at BC.

JOE BERGMAN / THE RIP

her opinions to impress the boys. She's very on the side of sense and romance. So not someone that I, Shelbe, would like but she's fun to play."

Chris Nisbett plays the role of Thomas the Butler, who he says "has the most stage time, but least amount of lines."

Some of the other characters include Willoughby, the charismatic man with whom Marianne falls in love, Elinor Dashwood, the witty older sister, Sir John Middleton, the cheerful and kind uncle of Elinor and Marianne, and Colonel Brandon the quiet, but gentlemanly war friend of Sir John Middleton.

The performances will be March 9-12 at 7:30 p.m. (the doors open at 7 p.m.) in the



Joy Wheat and Cody Ferguson rehearse their lines for the upcoming play "Sense and Sensibility."

JOE BERGMAN / THE RIP

Performing Arts Center, Indoor Theatre.

Tickets are available through

Vallitix and cost \$10 for general admission, \$8 for students, seniors, faculty, staff, and military.

PowerNomics is brought to light

By Sara Lievanos
Reporter

On Feb. 19, the Bakersfield College Indoor Theatre hosted author Claud Anderson, who focused on strategies to demolish the racial issues of African Americans.

Anderson, author of "PowerNomics: The National Plan to Empower Black America", is the current President of PowerNomics Corporation of America and has also held several political positions in his lifetime, including advisor to Jimmy Carter's presidential campaign in Florida, and the writer of the first affirmative action plan in the United States. In all of Anderson's endeavors, including his presentation, he has maintained a singular focus on ending the racial divide in society for African Americans.

Anderson began his presentation by delving into the strategies of PowerNomics, which he described as, "a new way to think, see, and behave in race matters."

One step that Anderson stated as crucial to solving the racial issues among black Americans is to understand the problem.

"People in this society see based on their experiences, and they draw conclusions without really understanding the problem", he said.

After learning more about where and how racism originated in America for African Americans, the next step to take, according to Anderson, is to "start pooling your resources, so you can come together and create jobs, goods, and wealth for black Americans."

Without resources, Anderson

expressed that African Americans don't have the ability to succeed in this "race based" society.

After the Thirteenth Amendment was passed, Anderson stated, "Wealth determined your opportunities for the future, and the white man after slavery ended came out with 3,500 times more wealth than a black person."

This idea that wealth determines a person's future opportunities was one that Anderson emphasized.

"Today, black people do not own more than one-half of one percent in our society", he said.

After discussing slavery Anderson fast-forwarded through history to the 1960s and the origins of benign neglect.

This idea, according to Anderson, began under President Richard Nixon and was meant to take the focus off of the Black Power movement and place the focus on all minorities. In this way Anderson said, "The government replaced and displaced the benefits that should have been used to solve the race problem in America."

Because there was never a strong focus on just African Americans as a single group Anderson claimed, "Martin Luther King Jr. was wrong to focus on social integration because the focus should have been on learning to respect and empower each other before being integrated into society."

Another step in the PowerNomics presentation Anderson emphasized is building an independent community.

"Black people don't have a group self interest and they have



SARA LIEVANOS / THE RIP

Anderson describes steps to solving racial issues in the US.

been taught not to", he said.

To build a community, Anderson said there is no need to be against other groups in society, and he said the actual change needs to come from building an independent economic structure.

The last step in Anderson's presentation was to control politics in Black American's favor by expressing the importance of building a community by pooling resources to create wealth.

"The burden of being represented in government lies within whom you elect to office, and it is your job to elect someone who will represent your point of view", he said. Through these steps of PowerNomics, Anderson believes it is possible to solve the racial divide in our society, but he left audience members with this warning: "Racism is a team sport, and you either play as a team or you won't survive."

Renegade Rip earns national honors at Los Angeles journalism conference

Bakersfield College's student newspaper, The Renegade Rip, and the online publication, therip.com, earned national honors during the Best of Show competition during the Associated Collegiate Press conference Feb. 18-21 at the Sheraton University in Los Angeles.

The Rip's website placed second in the nation in the large-

school division among four-year colleges and two-year colleges.

The newspaper placed ninth among community college newspapers in the nation.

The competition picks up to 10 winners nationwide in each category.

For Best of Show, only one newspaper could be turned in for judging, and the Rip staff chose

its latest edition from Feb. 18. The website was judged in its current form.

Rip students were also honored during the California Colleges Media Association awards ceremony Feb. 19 at the conference.

Entries from content published in the 2015 calendar year were eligible for judging.

Brooke Howard, an editor on The Rip last year and currently finishing her AA degree at BC, placed first for column writing, and Elka Wyatt, a former Rip reporter and also working on her AA at BC, placed first for arts-and-entertainment reporting with a story about the local drive-in group Cinertain.

Also, former Rip editor in

chief Elizabeth Castillo, now a journalism student at Cal State-Chico, won third place for best editorial, and current Rip editor in chief Mason J. Rockfellow and photo editor Joe Bergman won honorable mention for best media outlets, and included the awards ceremonies for CCMA 2015 edition.

A dozen students, with jour-

nalism professor Danny Edwards and photo instructor John Harte, attended the ACP conference.

The conference featured more than 100 workshops covering all phases of journalism, tours of the Los Angeles Times and other media outlets, and included the awards ceremonies for CCMA and Best of Show.

Top 10 Most Anticipated Videogames

The Rip's Chris Miller has asked 50 students on campus what the most anticipated video game is. The results have been compiled into the Top 10 answers based off of student opinion.

1. **Pokemon Go**
Number of votes: 4



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2. **Pokemon Red/Blue/Yellow 3DS**
Number of votes: 3

3. **Fire Emblem Fates: Revelation**
Number of votes: 2

4. **Bravely Second: End Layer**
Number of votes: 2

5. **Final Fantasy 15**
Number of votes: 2

6. **Dark Souls 3**
Number of votes: 2

7. **Pokken Tournament**
Number of votes: 2

8. **Deus Ex: Mankind Evolved**
Number of votes: 1

9. **Ark: Survival Evolved**
Number of votes: 1

10. **Far Cry Primal**
Number of votes: 1

Allen and Jones create new pathways

By Mason J. Rockfellow
Editor in Chief

The Norman Levan Center for Humanities welcomed Bakersfield College history professor Erin Miller as the 20th Norman Levan Faculty Colloquium speaker on Feb. 26.

Miller's lecture, "Death of Virtue: Citizenship, Race and Manhood in Colonial America and the Republic," was mainly structured around two men, Richard Allen and Absalom Jones. These two men were done seeing themselves how the white men perceived them, and they wanted to change it.

Miller used Allen's and Jones' stories to show how their belief in Christianity, effort, civic virtue, and manhood were able to create new opportunities and a new way of life for African Americans in early America.

"These two men used Christianity to bridge that gap. They forged a new way," said Miller.

Miller structured the lecture by

speaking for a little bit, and then turned to the audience for discussion and interaction, allowing people to discuss their view and opinions on the topics at hand.

Before she went into the full depth of the lecture, Miller turned to the audience and asked them to describe what they thought citizenship, rights, and manhood meant to them.

The answers varied, but when she asked the audience what they thought first of manhood, and then of "white" and "black" manhood respectively, people's opinions began to change.

Miller did this to make the point that manhood should just be manhood, but not everyone sees it like that. There are stereotypes.

Due to the background of her studies, Miller chose to talk about the lives of Allen and Jones to illustrate how something happened that seemed impossible to occur where it did.

Allen and Jones are also men who Miller sees as two of her

personal heroes.

"I think part of the reason I was drawn to them was because of how I was raised, and the potential of the human spirit to make the world a better place," said Miller.

When asked what she wanted the audience to take away from this lecture, Miller said, "I think because of the potential that existed and the power of the individual and how they see themselves...we often forget how important faith was then."

Miller started at BC, earning her associate's degree in history, then transferred to CSUB to earn her baccalaureate degree in history with a minor in Roman studies.

She went on to earn a master's degree in early American history and slavery from Notre Dame and is currently working on her doctoral dissertation called, "To Make Us Blacker Than We Are: Identity and 18th Century America," also from Notre Dame.



MASON J. ROCKFELLOW / THE RIP

Erin Miller talks about civic virtue to the audience while being honored as the 20th Norman Levan Faculty Colloquium speaker on Feb. 26.



MASON J. ROCKFELLOW / THE RIP

Pageant contestant Makena Moore takes the floor during the nightgown display on Feb. 25.



Left: Tatiana Allende takes the floor in her nightgown during the Miss Gay Goddess pageant on Feb. 25.

Right: While the contestants were getting ready in between showings, Majesty Moore Whitney, Miss Gay California USofA Newcomer 2015, dances for the waiting audience.

MASON J. ROCKFELLOW / THE RIP



Drag queens fight for the crown

By Crystal Valdez
Features Editor

Drag queens from all over California gathered at the Bakersfield Gay and Lesbian Center for the preliminary Miss Gay Goddess USofA Newcomer 2016 Pageant. The event took place from 9-11 p.m. on Feb. 25.

The Miss Gay Goddess Pageant is an annual drag competition, and it was the first time this preliminary stage took place at the center. It consists of a private interview, a nightgown section, and a talent section.

The center was full of people 18 and older waiting to see the competitors strut their stuff. Seating was limited, and nearly half of the audience had to either stand or sit on the floor throughout the show.

Makena Moore and Tatiana Allende were the two preliminary competitors who faced off that night.

By day, Tatiana is BC mathematics major Martin Preciado. Tatiana spoke to The Rip and shared her past experience as a competitor. This was her second year competing for the Miss Gay Goddess USofA Newcomer title.

"You put a lot of passion into it, but it's a fun experience, regardless of the outcome," said Tatiana.

Also at the event was Miss Gay California USofA Newcomer 2015, Majesty Moore Whitney, who was there to pass down her title.

Majesty was the previous winner. She said she was happy to be at the event, but also sad because her reign was coming to an end.

Majesty won after her third attempt. According to Majesty, a competitor is no longer able to compete in this pageant after three tries.

"It's kind of bittersweet. It's like your last

day of high school. As soon as it's over, it's like, wait, what do I do now?" said Majesty.

Majesty plans to take a hiatus from pageant shows to travel and to focus on her relationship.

"I'm really excited that I got this opportunity and that I could show everybody how much hard work I can do. I'm ready for the next step in my life. I appreciate the system, and I can't wait to see who the next winner is," Majesty said.

The show began and was hosted by master of ceremonies Mia Inez Adams (who was also dressed in drag).

The event featured performances by the master of ceremonies, Majesty, Tia Wanna, Ka'Aliyah McKim Diamond, and many other former and current competitors.

By the end of the night, Makena Moore was crowned Miss Gay California USofA Newcomer 2016.

New shows erupt at BC Planetarium

By James Macias
Reporter

From within the darkened walls of Bakersfield College's Planetarium, one may be transported to the other side of the universe or deep within the heart of an atom.

The planetarium's primary purpose is for astronomy classes and astrophysics lectures, however, with an array of advanced cinematic capabilities, there are a number of other applications for which it is also well suited.

Not the least of these abilities is the IMAX-like, awe-inspiring presentation of dramatic material. Ever since it was finished in 2006, the Planetarium has been playing to sold-out crowds.

The shows that have been exhibited thus far have been somewhat predictably focused on astronomical phenomena and other out-of-this-world stuff.

Starting March 3, the Planetarium begins presenting at least two features with a more down-to-earth theme.

"Earthquakes" is an in-depth analysis of tectonic theory and its practical implications.

This feature is a California Academy of Sciences (San Francisco) production.

"Supervolcanoes" is a discussion of the geologic processes that govern volcanism, with a distinct focus on massive examples like Yellowstone National Park.

Nick Strobel, head of the Astronomy Department, runs the Planetarium.

Strobel said the main reason for the departure from cosmological theory is the ongoing financial support that the Science Technology Engineering & Math (STEM) program at BC has enjoyed from Chevron.

"We convinced Chevron that it would be nice for them, it would be good PR... to boost their contribution to the STEM program here at BC," he said. "So what

we did was that we purchased a couple of geology themed shows because it was Chevron money that we were using with hopes of maybe having some further contributions later on as well.

"So it's like, well, we are looking for geology shows. Which are the two sexiest topics out there?"

The supervolcanoes show is going to land March 3, and it will most likely play to a sold-out crowd because that just seems to be how the Planetarium goes.

Strobel was very forthcoming regarding the content that we could expect and deferred heavily to his colleague John Menzies.

"He (Menzies) gets a stipend because of some of the Chevron money, and he's the one who will actually give the evening shows," Strobel said.

"He does physical geography, so he knows a little about landforms and all that."

"Supervolcanoes" starts off with information about Toba, which, Strobel said, was a supervolcanic eruption around the Sumatra/Indonesia area about 74,000 years ago.

That eruption was so powerful it changed the climate for several years.

"There were only a relatively few humans at that time, and we were pushed to the brink of extinction because of that," he said.

"It'll also talk a little bit about volcanic activity happening in other parts of our solar system, so there is some astronomy in there, too," he said, "and it ends up with Yellowstone because that's the largest volcano that we have here in the U.S., if not the world."

The Planetarium schedule for the rest of this semester is as follows: March 3, "Supervolcanoes"; April 7, "Earthquake"; April 17, "Black Holes" (sold out); April 21, "Dynamic Earth".

Local station seeks fresh face to reinvigorate their public image

By Crystal Valdez
Features Editor

Bakersfield's local television station Univision 39 is looking for a new face to host a new segment.

Univision has created a new segment for its station that will feature a host from Bakersfield and will visit various companies throughout the area in order to inform the community.

The television station will host a casting call at their location, 5801 Truxtun Avenue, on March 4 at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

"We want to encourage anyone who is not shy, who is energetic,

and who will have a lot of fun," said Gabriel Alvarez, producer for Univision 39.

"We're not going to have solely a casting. We want to create a relaxed vibe. We want to be inclusive and interactive," Alvarez added.

Those who are interested are required to be aged 18 or older. No previous experience is required, but those who participate are expected to look presentable and act professional.

Those who audition must also be fluent in both English and Spanish.

For more information, visit www.45kuvu.com.

Renegades get down to raise funds



By Freddie Ward
Reporter

On Feb. 24, Bakersfield College's nursing department and SGA hosted a Zumbathon fundraiser for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

Zumba instructor Quanita Hampton's son is a freshman at BC. She said she is participating because Zumba is fun, relaxing and "today it's rewarding because we're dancing for a worthy cause."

Hampton said after the students donated and danced, they were given snacks, juice, and a wristband. The minimum donation was \$1.

Heather Foss, BC cheer coach, said she came to dance and to encourage students to participate. She said she had been dancing for more than five minutes and the weather was great for the fundraiser and Zumba.

BC freshman Teola Copper said, "I danced from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m." Cooper, tired and sweaty, said, "It's a real workout, but it's worth it."

Alicia Thompson, JDRF chapter senior manager for Bakersfield and the Central Valley, said diabetes is a real problem in the valley. "So far this year, 352 individuals in Fresno and 147 in Bakersfield have been diagnosed with diabetes," she said.

Thompson said the money raised from the fundraiser will be used for the benefit of diabetic individuals in Bakersfield and Fresno.

JACOB TOVAR / THE RIP

BC students dance outside the student services center at the Zumbathon to raise funds and awareness for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

Random Renegade

Every issue, The Rip will be interviewing a random student at BC about hopes and goals.

By Crystal Valdez
Features Editor

Edgardo Soto, 20, is a BC student whose journey to be where he is today has been far from easy. However, his story resonates with many students at BC.

"The main reason I started coming to BC is because I was undocumented, and it was cheaper for me to come here," said Soto.

Soto arrived to the U.S. in 2003 at the age of 8 with his family from Sinaloa, Mexico. He lived in Bakersfield without proper documentation for 11 years.

In January 2015, Soto traveled to Ciudad Juárez in Mexico to apply for residency. He has since then been a legal resident of the U.S.

When asked about his experience in Juárez, Soto said, "I was kind of scared because a lot of people said, 'Oh there's a lot of violence in Ciudad Juárez,' ...but in reality, there wasn't. I didn't see any violence. I didn't see any shootings. I didn't see any deaths."

Soto shared his fear of deportation with The Rip, and said that traveling out of state would always reignite such fear.

"You don't know if there's an immigration checkpoint. I'd think, 'I could probably get deported.' Most likely I got, and that's a scary thought. I'm used to the style of living here.

All my family is here, so what would I do in Mexico?" said Soto.

Now that he is a resident, Soto travels out of state whenever possible.

Soto is a business administration major with a focus in accounting. He is currently the student instructor leader for managerial accounting at BC.

"I really enjoy it. I really enjoy having other students come to me for help... I really like the discussions that go on. I'm teaching them, and they're teaching me. It's a win-win. We both learn," said Soto about his experience as an SI leader.

Soto hopes to someday work for an accounting firm, as well as run a nonprofit organization.

He was recently conditionally accepted to Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo and is still waiting to hear back from other schools.

Aside from working as an SI, Soto has worked in the fields every summer since his junior year in high school.

"I do enjoy my summers, but the thing is I have to work," Soto said.

When asked what advice he would give to students who have lived through similar experiences, Soto said, "It can be very disheartening to have to go through all those steps... don't give up. It sounds so cliché, but that's the only thing you can do. Move forward."



CRYSTAL VALDEZ / THE RIP

Edgardo Soto is looking forward to transfer in order to pursue his career in business administration.

Speakers dig up tree information

By AK Pachla
Reporter

Bakersfield College hosted its first ever Urban Forestry Summit on Feb. 27 in the Fireside Room.

The event was sponsored by the Tree Foundation of Kern, BC Horticulture and Forestry, and the California Landscape Contractors' Association.

Tree Foundation executive director and certified arborist Melissa Iger is proud of the summit, but wishes the messaging had been stronger.

"It's probably about 50 people," she said of the turnout. "I had hoped for more, especially people that are interested in gardening and homeowners so they could learn the right way to take care of their trees."

Founded in 1993, the Tree Foundation of Kern has been dedicated to promoting environmental health in the Bakersfield area by educating people on planting and maintaining trees in their neighborhoods.

Since then, the Tree Foundation has planted more than 14,000 trees in 400 different locations around Kern County.

Iger describes urban forestry as "taking care of the trees in an urban area. It's a type of forestry," she continues, "but it's not like, [big tree] type forestry. It's the forest that surrounds us."

Iger's commitment is to more



FELICITY TOMISAKA / THE RIP

Left to right: Lindsay Ono, Conway Lopez, Ron Combs, and Joseph Stewart have a panel discussion about what the Certified Arborist looks for, and why and how we prune.

At the summit, arborists, forestry experts, and urban landscapers presented tips and techniques for how the average homeowner can make the most of their property, including what kinds of ornamental plants thrive best in our desert valley climate, ideal watering practices, and solutions to common plant problems encountered by landscapers and homeowners.

Iger's commitment is to more

than just beautification and lifting property values.

The urban forest cools the ground, protects soil, and provides a significant percentage of the oxygen we need to survive.

Learning to care for trees is important, Iger says, "because you're also taking care of the air we breathe, and there are a lot of mental health benefits and social benefits to trees besides just the environmental benefits."

Iger is looking forward to the future and to building the presence of the summit in the community.

"I'm thinking about it. I think it would be a good thing. More advertising so we could reach more people would be great."

Anyone interested in learning about the Tree Foundation of Kern or the practice of urban forestry can visit www.urbanforest.org.

In college, age is just a number

By Freddie Ward
Reporter

BC has a variety of first time and re-entry students who have returned to college for various reasons. They realize educational opportunities can occur at any stage of life.

Majorie Small, 52, vividly remembers Oct. 17, 2012.

"It was the most devastating day of my life, the day my financial stability was taken from me," she said. "My husband had an aneurysm and passed away."

Small, a wife and mother of two children, said her husband was the breadwinner and took care of their finances and financial obligations.

She said it wasn't until after his death that she discovered she was financially "broke."

"I didn't have money to bury him. Our son had to take out a loan because I couldn't qualify,



JOE BERGMAN / THE RIP

Jimmy Garcia decided to start his college education when he felt ready.

I had no credit or employment," said Small.

She had no idea how she would pay a \$1,765 mortgage, a \$475 car payment, car and life insurance, utilities, or any of the other debts.

Small said she found a job as a clerk, but her salary wasn't enough to pay their financial obligations.

Small attributes her entry into college to her son, Wayne. She said, "He convinced me I was 'not to old' to start a career."

Small said it took months for her to enroll, but she finally did. She said her financial future was now in her hands, and it was time for her to take charge.

When her circumstances start to depress her, she keeps saying, "I can do this."

Small is preparing for the future and planning her retirement. She is a business major and will graduate in fall 2017.

Jimmy Garcia, 45, a convicted felon, is a human service major at BC. Garcia said as a condition of his felony probation, he had to become actively employed.

He said the state office, Career Service Center, would not refer

him to prospective employers because he was a felon.

Garcia said, "There was no company that wanted to employ or take a chance on me."

It became impossible for him to find employment on his own and without a referral.

He said, "I can't find a job so I'll enroll in college." Garcia is a sophomore and will graduate in the spring 2016.

Carrie Nash, 63, worked for Kaiser Permanente for more than 15 years and quit.

Nash said, "I've never worked for a company that treats their employees with respect."

Nash is a re-entry student. She attended BC earlier in her life and earned a culinary certificate.

Nash is now a child development major. She plans to open a day-care and become self-employed.

She said, "Then, I can finally be the boss."

ENGINEERING: Technology is used to inspire young students

Continued from Page 1

out that the whole simulator rig they had built for this event was put together using commonly available consumer products that anyone anywhere could obtain.

"DO, try this at home, kids," he said.

It seems that flying an F-22 is almost literally child's play. Earl said that landing is actually the hard part and that it separates the real pilots from the black marks on the tarmac.

Earl had a disarming disposition, with a passionate edge and a very sharp wit as well.

He talked about why engineering was important enough to warrant an expo on campus with free food.

"[I came to BC today] to try to help inspire younger people to pursue a career in engineering. I think engineering is important because I think it's very important to pursue what one loves doing, and in there, one has to lay out that you want to make a good living. And so one of the reasons that drove me to engineering was that I like fixing things. I like mechanical things, and when I researched the market, there's jobs! There aren't enough engineers. They need engineers, and I believe in getting out with an outreach like this to try to help inspire people, 'cause no one did that when I was growing up. I didn't know I could be an engineer!" he said.

After groups of 30 or so students had spent more than four

hours circulating between the IT building and the two other buildings associated with the Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics Program, there was a lull in activity as word spread amongst the teenagers that lunch was ready.

Jason Dixon, 42, BC's chair for the Engineering and Industrial Technology department, was on hand to assist in any way he could as his subordinates gave presentation after presentation with extra presentations on the side.

Many of the students in attendance were participants in local academic programs called Career Academies.

Career Academies are similar to having a separate trade school institution cohabitating with high school.

"These kids are coming from all over the spectrum. There are some that are coming from a career pathway or an academy, some of them are coming as part of Project Lead the Way programs, some of them are just a class coming in who decided to take the field trip up to see the facilities and learn more about the programs," said Dixon.

Squads of Kern County probation officers were an ever-present detail throughout the day. "Those officers are escorting a group of students from ... one of the juvenile detention facilities here in Kern County," Dixon said. "They want the students to learn about engineering pro-



JAMES MACIAS / THE RIP

Bakersfield College professor Vic Posey gives a lecture to some wards from the Kern Crossroads facility.

grams here so that they can make better choices once they are done with their program."

Dixon is passionate about reaching out to potential students who often are not aware of the opportunities presented by earning an engineering degree from BC.

"We are reaching out to the community. We're letting the instructors come up here. They learn about our programs to tell their students. The students come up here, learn about the programs that feed into the engineering industry as well as

other technical fields, and potentially come to BC and they can tell their friends about what they learned about here at BC. Most of them knew that BC had science and engineering, but most of them did not know about the technical programs: the automotive, the welding, the industrial drawing or the electronics," said Dixon.

Engineering Day is new to BC, but the event has a 16-year history, which makes its arrival here on our campus feel like the natural progression of a long saga.

Engineering Day began as

part of a program enacted by the Clinton administration during its education initiative. At that time it was located at the Kern County Museum, where it remained for 10 years until the museum began to charge a fee for the space. Unable to retask the necessary funds, the event's organizers chose to accept an offer from CSUB to hold the event on that university campus.

Andrea Wright, a consultant for Kern County Superintendent of Schools, took some time to explain the intricacies of developing Engineering Day into its

present form.

"[W]e have been there for three or four years, and this year they started to charge us, and when you don't have that kind of money for education... So then BC opened the door and said 'come'," said Wright. "We average about 500 students through all the high schools and our surrounding areas. We try to give this to those students that are interested in this career path, but we also want to introduce it to those other students that are not sure where they are going to go."

Student has mellow sound

FOUR-YEAR: New program for BC students



MARCUS CASTRO / THE RIP

Performing "Mellow Mood" by Slightly Stupid, computer science major Tucker Clerico, 22, sings at Open Mic Night at Bakersfield College on Feb. 24. There was fresh coffee, danishes, and muffins available for performers and viewers.

Continued from Page 1

time enrollees in the program and require you to have already accumulated 60 units of college credits with a "C" average. And tier two requires that you have completed all of the prior requirements stated in tier one. Information on the tiers can be found on the BC website.

However, Quintanilla, a BC counselor, doesn't want that to deter prospective students.

"I'm here to help you succeed. Any one person can do this, I promise you," said Quintanilla. She went on to specify all of the requirements and courses offered to the students present.

With six total lower-division and 23 upper-division courses, Caras believes students will have a wide range of classes to choose from.

He said that will help each student to find his or her niche in the automation industry but he knows it will take time for students to adjust to the change from two-year to four-year degrees.

"With the SB850 bill being passed, junior colleges have now become university level," said Caras.

"We're doing everything we can to give you the same challenges and rigors of a real university."

Mock trial is postponed for BC Prelaw Club students

By AK Pachla
Copy Editor

Participants in the upcoming mock trial, sponsored by the 223 Prelaw Club, met in the SGA Boardroom with BC director of student relations Chad Hidalgo and political science professor Dr. Charles Kim to review the case and discuss mock trial procedure on Feb. 19 at 9 a.m. As a result of this meeting however, the decision was made to reschedule the mock trial event itself for fall semester 2016.

The case at issue is *People vs. Vega*, a Fifth Amendment case about a young thief who was detained and questioned by police without being informed of his Constitutional rights regarding police interrogation. "We went with this court case be-

cause it has to do with Miranda rights." The mock trial team will be presenting pretrial arguments on the case for both the prosecution and defense.

2016 marks the 50th anniversary of the landmark *Miranda vs. Arizona*, the Supreme Court case that compelled American law enforcement to begin issuing the now familiar Miranda Warning: "You are under arrest. You have the right to remain silent. Anything you say from this point forward will be used in your prosecution. You have the right to an attorney." Bakersfield College will be observing this historic ruling on Pre Law Day, April 29.

Among the major issues brought up were the number of people required for a full mock trial as opposed to the number of participating students. Dr. Kim, an experienced mock trial coach, recommends no fewer than eleven participants per team,

and BC currently has four.

Another issue was the condensed time frame. "I was a little disappointed at the amount of time we have to prepare," shared psychology major and prelaw minor Dyann Serrato. Serrato has done similar mock trials in one of BC criminal justice professor Christian Zoller's classes. Overall, however, she and the other participants are excited.

Mock trial is a project of the 223 Prelaw Club. Named for the state initiative that offered BC, along with a dozen other two-year colleges across California, a four-year prelaw degree program, the 223 Prelaw Club connects prelaw students at community and junior colleges to law schools, as well as employment and internship opportunities similar to those offered by four-year universities.

This mock trial, formerly set to be on March

3, will be put off until the fall, but Kim spoke of plans for intercollegiate competition, as well as the integration of classes specific to critical thinking and litigation into the BC prelaw degree program itself.

"It's a whole different type [...] of thinking," said Kim, talking about the precise specificity of legal language and how it is used in the courtroom. "Those [words] are determining factors."

Kim calls mock trial "good training for future lawyers", but mock trial isn't just for prelaw students.

Students who are interested in finding out more about mock trial and future events, as well as the 223 Prelaw Club may contact Chad Hidalgo by emailing BCSGASudOrgs@bakersfieldcollege.edu.

Best cell phone carrier is Verizon

By Carl E. Littleberry Jr.
Reporter

From someone with Verizon wireless as his carrier, I can honestly tell you it is by far the best wireless service out there. Better than Sprint with its hidden fees, and don't even get me started on those lackluster Boost and Metro PCS services. They are a joke.

Don't get me wrong I have had all of these carriers and they all offer fine services. Sprint has some of the lowest charges for their plans and the new phones they come up with are always very stylish and fashionable.

Even Metro and Boost offer you an affordable plan with at least marginal service. However, my one big problem with these three carriers over Verizon would have to be their customer service.

Customer service itself is huge for me considering I break at least two to three phones a year. I need a great customer service set-up that is quick, easy and has agents who are prepared to help me completely.

I do not like to have to be transferred to other

departments unless its necessary, and I will tell you that's all places like Boost and Metro seem to want to do.

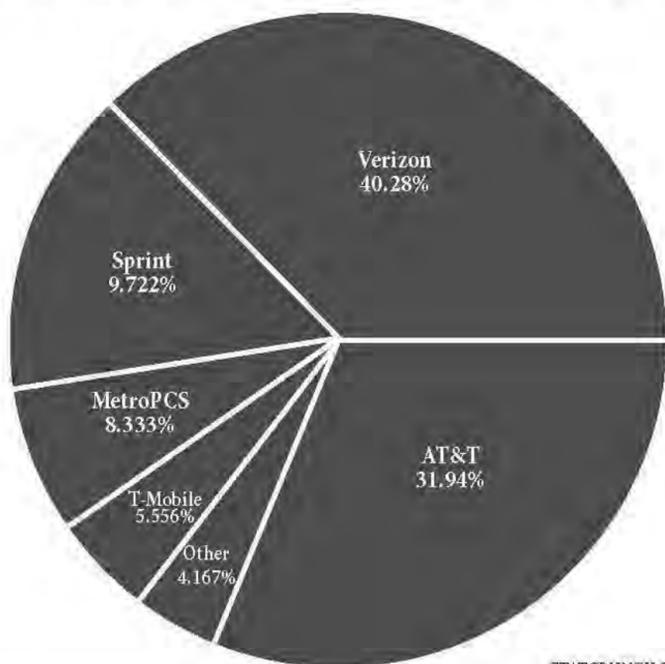
I spend more time trying to tell an automated call-service my social security number and phone number than I do talking on the phone most times.

It can literally get ridiculous considering how long it even takes to get an actual human to talk to you, which can run from five minutes to half an hour.

Since all phones are really supposed to be used for keeping in contact, I don't see the point of the numerous upgrades in phones as well. Phones were originally just meant for emergency contact or quick conversations. So why does it even matter what carrier you have? They all do the same things for the most part.

Most phones come with cameras and 4G data services nowadays. The only real differences are the available apps. I'm still saying if you have a choice go with Verizon, however Metro, Boost or even Sprint wouldn't be a bad choice, considering all phones do the exact same things.

Most used cell phone carrier



STATCRUNCH.COM 2012

Uber provides a good experience



ALBERT "NIMAK" VARGAS / THE RIP

By Mason J. Rockfellow
Editor in Chief

Recently, I took a taxi in LA with some friends because it was readily available instead of waiting six minutes for an Uber driver to show up. In the end, waiting that six minutes would've saved us money and given us a better ride.

When I first heard about Uber, I wasn't exactly fond of the idea of strangers taking me somewhere and trusting their driving skills to get me to my destination. In the grand scheme of things though, it's actually just another form of a taxicab, and a lot cheaper. When you get a taxi, you hop in the car with a stranger just like when you take an Uber, but Uber drivers seem to be more personable.

All of my Uber experiences have been excellent.

I have taken an Uber in Oakland, Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, and here in Bakersfield.

Compared to taxi drivers, Uber drivers usually have some sort complimentary beverages or snacks, which is not mandatory for them to have but sure is a nice icing on the cake.

Many do this for the mere fact that they hope it gets them a better rating on the app. If you offer me drink and a snack and all I was expecting was a ride, then a good rating is what you get. They can also rate you as well, so be sure to not piss off your Uber driver. The rating system is there for drivers to see, so if your rating is bad, it may

take a little longer for a driver to choose to pick you up.

There is also just something about Uber drivers that is more comforting than your basic cab driver.

My experiences between taking taxicabs and Ubers greatly differ from one another. Most taxicab drivers are doing it as a full time job, while most of the Uber drivers I have talked to are doing it for extra cash in their pocket at the end of the day. To me the people who are doing it for the extra money seem to be a lot more friendly and open to conversation while they chauffeur me, which for me makes the experience a better one.

Many people may be turned off by the idea of Uber because it's just normal people using their own cars to taxi people around cities and towns, but Uber drivers are held to standards, rules, and expectations.

Uber drivers must be at least 21 years of age, acquire a commercial drivers' license, Uber approved auto insurance, and a car that is 10 years old or newer, but this varies depending on the city. Uber drivers are also required to pass a vehicle inspection to make sure everything is safe for transporting people around, and last but not least, the driver must pass a background check.

If you ask me, Uber is a great alternative to your everyday taxi. Maybe you'll have a good conversation and something to snack on your way to your destination while saving a little money and for some, even saving you from a DUI.



ALBERT "NIMAK" VARGAS / THE RIP

Smoking policy: Is it a good idea or a bad idea?

PRO

By AK Pachla
Reporter

By now, you've likely heard about the smoking ban on campus. It isn't set in stone yet, but the way everything is looking, it seems all but a done deal.

There's still some confusion as to exactly what's allowed and what, if any, consequences there should be for noncompliance.

Nevertheless, it appears that a ban, directly enforceable or not, is on the horizon for Bakersfield College.

I'm a smoker. I've smoked a pack a day, give or take, for twenty-five years. I have my own set of health problems related to it, and I get that it's kind of gross.

There are times when even I will be physically repulsed by the smell of my clothing and hair.

Even so, I have no plans to quit, and I fully expect it will kill me before my time. That's what smoking does.

That's why, counterintuitive though it may seem, I support the smoking ban. I, and many other smokers, I suspect, already take care to remove ourselves from populated places, or at least respect the state law about staying twenty feet from doors, windows, and building air intakes. We do this not to avoid being criticized, but to reduce the impact we have on others. We know it's not good for you because, believe it or not, we know it's not good for us.

Even without the ability to directly enforce any smoking ban, it is an appropriate policy to take for an educational institution seeking to improve the lives of its students.

The lives of nonsmokers are improved by not being exposed to cigarette smoke, and the lives of smokers are, at the very least, improved by the fact that we'll have to take a walk if we want a smoke. Maybe we can shave thirty seconds off those ten minutes the cigarette is taking off our lives.

As for the vague enforceability of the ban, I agree that it has the potential to cause conflict between students, students and staff, and possibly even between employees and administration. In the absence of clear consequences, it may be that human nature allows for little more than bad blood.

Personally, I haven't seen it. Granted, I go out of my way to find an unpopulated corner or head out to a parking lot most of the time, but on occasions when I have been told that my cigarette smoke was bothering other people, they've always been reasonable and polite. I've never been told I was doing anything wrong, just that I should do it somewhere else.

I think the student population here is more than capable of self-regulating on this issue. The smokers aren't that kind of belligerent and the nonsmokers aren't that kind of arrogant.

The general social atmosphere, coupled with the fact that, and let's be honest, smokers, it's just not that far a walk in any direction to a sidewalk, is going to be what keeps the vast majority of interactions between smokers and nonsmokers at least civil, if not cordial.

CON

By Joe Bergman
Photo Editor

It is important to know where one is coming from before you read their opinion on something as unique as a smoking policy. I was medically retired after a 15-year career in law enforcement. I have more education than most who teach on this campus. The only thing I have ever smoked has been an occasional cigar while sipping whiskey.

I don't have an issue with the smokers on campus. I have an issue with the pending smoking policy.

Humans will only change their behavior when they really want to, or when the consequences for their behavior finally outweigh the benefits of that behavior.

I spent seven years working with alcoholics and drug addicts. For most, jail was not enough of a consequence to deter the unwanted behavior. It takes multiple stints in custody, forcing periods of sobriety upon them. It takes rigid structure in a treatment program, followed by peer-to-peer meetings and support groups. AA and NA are two of the more popular programs.

Most cigarette smokers share the same behavioral traits that alcoholics and drug addicts display. Nicotine is an addictive substance. It's an unscheduled category drug, but published, peer reviewed research has shown nicotine to possess "moderate-high psychological dependency," and to have a "high addiction liability." I have qualified as an "expert witness" and testified in court on the subject of addictive behavior and amenability to treatment.

If you want to help a cigarette smoker quit smoking, it will only happen when that individual is ready to make that behavioral change. Otherwise, you better make the consequences for smoking out weigh the psychological benefits a smoker receives from lighting up. Why waste the time and money to implement a smoking policy if there is no mechanism for enforcement? Sure, it might make some people on campus feel good about themselves, but other than wasting money on "no smoking" signs, the policy is not worth the paper it's printed on.

If you want to bring attention to the benefits of not smoking, launch an advertising campaign, because campus security has a tough enough job garnering respect on campus. Don't impose a policy without a mechanism for enforcement. Campus security can't arrest a smoker, can't cite a smoker, can't escort a smoker off campus, and can't even order a smoker put out his/her cigarette. I guess campus security can violently shake a finger at the smoker, and when the smoker doesn't listen, they can ask again.

I would honestly like to know how many policies without a mechanism for consequences have been successful? How would campus parking be if there were no consequences for violations? Even the campus library imposes consequences for violations of policy.

Instead, how about actually using the funding in a way that would actually benefit the students of Bakersfield College. Create an incentive based, behavioral modification program. Combine educational workshops with peer counseling. Help open the minds of smokers on campus to the idea of change, because that's the first step in eliminating unwanted behavior.

Magazine Review

'Allure' is not meant for men

By Marcus Castro
Contributing Editor

Being a typical man who loves sports and video games, I decided to review a magazine that is geared toward women.

I looked through the magazine section at Foodmaxx and was beyond confused because I didn't have a clue what the more girly magazines were supposed to be about. So I closed my eyes and randomly grabbed a magazine.

Do I now regret this? Yes. I say this because the magazine I grabbed is "Allure." Allure is a magazine about women's beauty through makeup and other women's products, but it's mostly about makeup. I read and browsed through the magazine, and I had a hard time staying focused, as I have no clue what the advertisements and brief articles were talking about.

There were words being used like "contour", "sheet mask" and "ultra-matte", and these words might as well have been written in Japanese because I had no clue what they meant.

Forcing myself to read brief

stories with sub-headlines like "Wearing the exact same thickening black mascara since you were 17 years old" or "If it's Friday night, it's black eyeliner time" was one of the worst things I have made myself do.

I can honestly say that I did take away two good things from this magazine:

The first is how to buy a good gift for Valentine's Day. I've learned that you must give your partner an experience through the gifts you buy them. Allure taught me that a simple gift may not be enough, but a gift that takes your partner through a great experience is ideal.

I also learned how to fake a clean house. I was taught to declutter everything, have clean sinks, focus your efforts, close all necessary doors and dim the lights. With my room being as dirty as it is, I may have to give this a shot.

At the end of the day, I want my \$3.99 back because this is not the magazine for me. If I was a makeup and women's beauty and fashion lover, then I would love this magazine, but I am not either of those.

☆☆☆☆☆



Renegade Events

News

March 1: Bushes along the main entrance to the campus were set on fire around 6 a.m. No one was harmed and minimal damage was done. The Fire Department later declared this as an act of arson.

Workshops/Fairs

- March 2:** FAESA Workshop, Wednesday, 8 a.m.-10 a.m. & 3:30 p.m.-5 p.m. Location: Counseling Center, SS151
- March 3:** Counseling Outreach, Thursday, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Location: Grass area in front of counseling
- March 7:** CSU Transfer Talk, Monday, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Location: Counseling Center, SS151
- March 7:** Student Educational Plan Workshop, Monday, 9 a.m.-10:30 a.m. Location: Counseling Center, SS151
Learn how to complete your student education plan and enroll in the correct classes.
- March 8:** Probation Workshop, Tuesday, 9 a.m.-10:30 a.m. Location: Counseling Center, SS151
- March 9:** Transfer in Two Associate Degrees for Transfer, Wednesday, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Location: SS151
- March 10:** Dismissal Workshop, Thursday, 3 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Location: Counseling Center, SS151.
- March 10:** Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Guaranteed Admission Workshop, Thursday, 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Location: SS151
- March 10:** The BC student Alumni Nexus, Thursday, 12 p.m.-1 p.m. Location: Fireside Room
- March 15:** Student Education Plan Workshop, Tuesday, 9 a.m.-10:30 a.m. Location: Counseling Center, SS151

Miscellaneous

- March 4:** Univision Talent Search Bakersfield Casting Call, Friday, 10 a.m.- 12 p.m. & at 2 p.m. Location: The Studios Of Univision 39, 5801 Truxtun Ave. Bakersfield, CA 93309
- March 15 & 17:** Bakersfield College Cheer Tryouts, Tuesday & Wednesday 5 p.m.-6:30 p.m. Thursday 6 p.m.-TBA
Location: The Huddle, Gym Building (Mt. Vernon side)
Minimum requirement: 2.0 GPA Required, Plan to be a full time BC student for 2016-2017, bring an unofficial copy of transcripts, and wear appropriate athletic apparel.
There will be a brief informational meeting, Tuesday the 15 at start time.
For more information: bwhitson@bakersfieldcollege.edu
Heather.foss@bakersfieldcollege.edu
661-395-4619
- March 15:** Community Hour, Tuesday, 12 p.m.-1:00 p.m. Location: Delano Campus
Learn about your professor's educational experiences throughout their college years. Their stories can be inspiring, encouraging, and motivating and ultimately may make a difference as you continue your educational journey. Current events and ideas will also be shared.
- March 3:** Supervolcanoes, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. 8:30 p.m. Doors open at 7 p.m. Tickets on sale starting February 19.
Tickets: BC Ticket Office, \$8 adults, \$6 children & seniors.
Location: Planetarium, Room 112.
- March 9 & 10:** Sense and Sensibility, Wednesday & Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Location: SPARC Indoor Theater
Bakersfield College presents "Sense and Sensibility" an adaptation by Ashley J. Barnard based on the novel by Jane Austen.
- March 11 & 12:** Sense and Sensibility, Friday & Saturday, doors open at 7 p.m. show at, 7:30 p.m. March 12 doors open at 1:30 p.m. show at 2 p.m. Location: SPARC Indoor Theater
Buy tickets online through Vallitix.
- March 15:** Squared Away In A Day, Tuesday, 7:30 a.m.-11 a.m. Location: Fireside Room
Opportunity for our BC Veterans to be informed about services that are available.
- March 15:** STEM Speaker Series: Reed Timmer, Tuesday, 12:15 p.m.-1:00 p.m. Location: Fireside Room

TV Review

'Into the Badlands' is a great new show



AMC.COM

By Carl E. Littleberry Jr.
Reporter

In the summer of 2015, the AMC (American Movie Classics) channel announced a new series they said would rival the already critically acclaimed "The Walking Dead." On Nov. 15, 2015, they delivered on that lofty promise with their new post-apocalyptic concoction titled "Into the Badlands."

ITB or "Badlands" for short, is a kung-fu based drama surrounding two main characters, Sunny, played by Danny Wu, and M.K., played by Aramis Knight. Sunny is a regent or "head clipper" for the Baron and is in charge of maintaining peace and order within the Baron's territory in the Badlands.

Before I explain who the Baron is and why he owns territory in the Badlands, you first have to know what the Badlands even are.

The Badlands is an isolated island cut off from the rest of the world that has succumbed to an unknown plague which has killed off nearly the entire human population. In the Badlands, there are people who have constructed territories, or what I think are safe havens, for humans to live in that separate them from the dangers of wild animals or bandits. In total, there have been four of the seven leaders of the territories mentioned, however the most prominent two are the Baron and the Widow.

The Widow is the main antagonist of the first season, as she is

trying to find and kidnap M.K. so she can control an amazingly cool hidden power M.K. possesses. I don't want to ruin it for you, but just picture basic shadow powers like Spawn with a huge power-up for all my anime geeks out there.

There's even a love story for those of you who don't like too much action and bloody swordplay, and believe me there's a butt load of special effects and cool sword fights that will literally knock your freaking socks off.

I expected that, considering the directors, Alfred Gough and Miles Millar, also directed many Jackie Chan movies such as "Shanghai Noon" and "Shanghai Nights." If that doesn't get you hyped up, these are also the guys

responsible for "Smallville." What more do you need to convince you to watch?

So far, only six episodes have been aired, with more scheduled to come out in the coming weeks. However, I was a fan after the first 15 minutes, and I am 1000 percent sure if you don't like it, then you probably just hate good T.V.

So all in all, it's a great new show with a nice premise that I feel many people will be able to grasp easily. With all the potential for character development and plot points, the show is leaving room for it to continue and improve. It's a must watch in my opinion and if you don't have AMC, get it, so you can watch ASAP.

☆☆☆☆☆

RENEGADE MINDS "Do you think Apple should be forced to unlock the iPhone for the FBI?"

Compiled by:
Joe Bergman
Photo Editor



Cody Erskine, 25, Sophomore: "No, because of our privacy rights."



Angel Gil, 20, Sophomore: "It's against the privacy agreement Apple has with its customers."



Maria Rosas, 47, Freshman: "Yes, Apple should comply with the request from the FBI."



Sara Shamblyn, 24, Sophomore: "I guess the FBI can do what they want."



Steven Shamblyn, 25, Freshman: "I think they should. It's related to terrorism."



Winner of the 2003 and 2008 JACC Pacesetter Award

First place in 2011, third place in 2013 and 2014 for CNPA General Excellence

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

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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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BC gets No. 1 Gauchos in Round 3



By Mohamed Bafakih
Contributing Editor

It hasn't been this sweet for the Bakersfield College men's basketball program since the 2007-08 season, when the Renegades managed to reach the Final Four of the state playoffs as a No. 12 seed – but it's the Sweet Sixteen in 2016 – so let's savor the moment.

Ninth-ranked BC (24-5) faces the state's top-ranked and the region's top-seeded team, Saddleback (28-1), Wednesday night, March 2, at 7 p.m. (live updates on Twitter "@bc_rip" and full recap following the game on therip.com).

Saddleback is coming in with a 22-game winning streak dating back to Nov. 29 and a 79-54 win in the second round of the California Community College Athletic Association's Southern California regional playoffs over MiraCosta on Feb. 27.

BC, meanwhile, advanced past No. 8 Moorpark College in the second round of the playoffs with a decisive 96-78 victory on Feb. 26.

This was the first meeting between the two schools since the arrival of BC head basketball coach and Western State Conference-South Coach of the Year Rich Hughes in 2005.

Both teams came into the postseason after clinching their first conference championship bids in a decade, as BC (12-2 WSC-South) captured an outright title (first since 1998; co-champs in 2006-07), while Moorpark (20-9, 9-3 WSC-North) ended a wild WSC-North race en route to a share of its first conference title in 10 years.

On earning the No. 9 seed, Hughes said, "It's a new criteria; there are some flaws to it."

"I definitely think we're higher than that. I definitely don't think we're a top-four team, and even five is somewhat a little bit debatable, but I thought we were 6 to 8 and a home team."

A home game would have meant a chance for BC to put its undefeated 10-0 home record this season on the line, but the show will continue to remain on the road as its latest stop is at Saddleback.

Familiar foe to BC, Antelope Valley College (24-6, 7-5 WSC-South), earned

the No. 7 seed despite the Renegades finishing conference three games ahead for a first place finish and holding higher state rankings throughout the second half of the season.

Hughes mentioned that he and associate head coach Aaron Chávez felt "offended and upset" about receiving the No. 9 slot, and he hoped that his players would feel slighted as well.

That was the combativeness BC needed as they jumped out to an early double-digit lead before Moorpark managed to bring it down to six heading into the half, 39-33.

It was all Renegades in the second half as they outscored the Raiders 57-45.

"We were ready," Hughes said. "We're frustrated that we had to go on the road... we don't think we should have, so we were ready to go."

The Raiders' roster had 10 of their 13 players listed as guards, with their tallest player being 6-foot-7, so Moorpark saw difficulties dealing with back-to-WSC-South Player of the Year Deandre Dickson.

All five BC starters finished in double figures, led by Dickson's 25 points (9-for-9 free-throws) and 12 rebounds. Nick Velasquez also tallied a double-double as he finished with 17 points and 10 rebounds, while Jameik Riviere flirted with a triple-double (15 points, eight rebounds and eight assists).

Moorpark's duo of Larry Bush and Jeremiah Gray combined for 55 of the team's 78 points as Bush finished with 28 points, nine rebounds and five assists.

Gray chipped in 27 points and seven rebounds despite Moorpark having five players averaging double-figure scoring throughout the season.

As the win or go home road continues for BC, the Gauchos of Saddleback aren't as balanced as Moorpark having just two players averaging more than 10 points per game, but they offer a ton more size, which will stiffen things up on both ends for the Renegades.

"They [Saddleback] are the No. 1 team in the state, they're the No. 1 seed."

"I know our guys will be ready... if they're not ready, I'll be shocked," Hughes said.



Above: Jameik Riviere celebrates BC's first outright Western State Conference-South Division championship since 1998 by dunking his head in the net and flexing afterward. Left: Lawrence Moore attacks the basket for the Renegades against the Raiders. He finished with 18 points on 7-for-11 shooting. Below left: WSC Coach of the Year Rich Hughes is looking to punch a ticket into the Elite Eight and an upset win over Saddleback College on Wednesday, March 2.

PHOTOS BY JOE BERGMAN/
THE RIP



RICH HUGHES

WESTERN STATE
CONFERENCE-SOUTH
COACH OF THE YEAR

- Led the Renegades to their first 20+ win season since 2009-10

- First Coach of the Year nomination since 2006-07

- Second-most winningest coach in program history at 203 wins (14 wins shy of tying all-time record, per gogades.com)

- Third-highest winning percentage in program history at .618 (203-125)



JOE BERGMAN / THE RIP

Deandre Dickson goes up for the two-hand jam in the second round win over Moorpark.

REMAINING ALL-CONFERENCE TEAM NOMINATIONS FOR BC

First Team

- Jameik Riviere (Soph., 5-9, 160 lbs.)
- Nick Velasquez (Soph., 6-3, 195 lbs.)
- Lawrence Moore (Soph., 6-3, 180 lbs.)

Honorable Mentions

- James Pendleton (FR, 5-9, 175 lbs.)
- Shane Christie (FR, 6-3, 190 lbs.)

DEANDRE DICKSON (Soph., 6-9, 200 lbs.)

WESTERN STATE CONFERENCE-SOUTH
PLAYER OF THE YEAR

- Second straight nomination after averaging 18.1 points, 12.3 rebounds (2nd in state) and 1.9 blocks

- Finished first in the state in total rebounds (357)

- Has eclipsed the 1,000 career points mark

- Has combined for a total of 33 career double-doubles

BC women's track shows promise

By Kyle Cortez
Reporter

The Bakersfield College women's track and field team continues to show promise, while the BC men's team looks to improve.

The Renegades hosted the Western State Conference North meet on Feb. 26 where five teams competed.

The BC women's team took second at the meet with a team score of 111. College of the Canyons took first with a team score of 206.

Tyra Saunders took first in the 100-meter dash with a time of 12.39 seconds. Saunders also placed fifth in the 200-meter dash with a time of 26.57.

Kyra Saunders took first in the 200-meter dash with a time of 25.80 seconds. Saunders also placed third in the 400-meter dash with a time of 1 minute, 4.47 seconds. Saunders also placed second in the long jump with a mark of 15 feet, 10.6 inches (4.84m).

Kassidy Murphy placed second in the 400-meter dash with a time of 1 minute 2.76 seconds.

Carina Perezchica placed third in the 100-meter hurdles with a time of 19.03 seconds. Perezchica also placed third in the 400-meter hurdles with a time of 1 minute 12.86 seconds.

The BC women's 4x100-meter relay team, consisting of Murphy, Kyra, Emagee Tyler, and Tyra, took first in the 4x100-meter relay with a time of 48.70 seconds.

Veronica Slade took first in the triple jump with a jump of 31 feet (9.47m).

Marilyn Quintero placed second in the discus throw with a distance of 119 feet 9.4 inches (36.51m).

Sha'Nya Terry took first in the hammer throw with a distance of 111 feet 10.13 inches (34.09m).

The BC men's team took fourth at the meet with a team score of 94.

Jacob Bookout took first in the high jump with a jump of 6-4. Bookout was able to take first, but he wasn't completely satisfied with his performance.

"It wasn't as consistent as last week, and I only jumped 6-4. My overall performance was all right though," said Bookout.

Bookout placed fifth in the long jump with a mark of 20 feet 4.49 inches (6.21m). He also placed third in the triple jump with a distance of 43 feet (13.11m).

Deonte Henderson placed second in the 100-meter dash with a time of 11.26 seconds. Hender-

son also placed second in the 200 with a time of 22.71.

Lucas Parviainen placed third in the 400-meter dash with a time of 50.22 seconds.

Daniel Aguirre placed second in the 800-meter run with a time of 1 minute 56.28 seconds.

The BC men's 4x100-meter relay team, consisting of Tristan McGee, Henderson, Issac Hernandez, and Parviainen, took second in the 4x100-meter relay with a time of 43.55 seconds.

Edgar Llanes placed third in the pole vault with a height of 14 feet (4.27m).

Dillen Littles took first in the hammer throw with a distance of 118 feet (35.97m). Littles also placed third in the discus throw with a distance of 125 feet 4.33 inches (38.21m).

The BC track team competed in the Conference Relays on Feb. 19, which had many different relays for teams to compete in.

Sydney Roman placed third in the women's 5000-meter run with a time of 19 minutes 27.55 seconds.

BC women's relay team placed second in the 4x200-meter relay with a time of 1 minute 46.20 seconds.

The BC women's 800-meter sprint medley team finished second with a time of 1 minute 56.46 seconds.

The BC women's 1600-meter sprint medley team placed second with a time of 4 minutes 35.03 seconds.

Sha'Nya Terry placed third in the shot put with a distance of 32 feet 3.4 inches (9.84m). Terry also placed fourth in the discus throw with a distance of 98 feet 2.35 inches (29.93m).

Marilyn Quintero placed second in the discus throw with a distance of 108 feet 7.15 inches (33.10m). Quintero also took second in the javelin throw with a distance of 78 feet 8.1 inches (23.98m).

The BC men's team didn't do as well as the women's team, but they still had a few events that they did well in.

The BC men's 1600-meter sprint medley team took first with a time of 3 minutes 34.73 seconds.

Jacob Bookout took first in the high jump with a jump of 6-6.

Dillen Littles took second in the shot put with a distance of 46 feet 1.19 inches (14.03m).

Mark Agbalog placed third in the 110-meter hurdles with a time of 16.45 seconds.

The BC track team will be on the road for the Kim Duyt Invitational in Stanislaus on March 5 and will be at home for the BC Relays on March 12.



Above: Edgar Llanes clears the bar in the pole vault. Llanes placed third in the pole vault with a height of 14 feet. Right: Carina Perezchica hurdles in the 100-meter hurdles. She went on to place third with a time of 19.03 seconds.

PHOTOS BY JOE BERGMAN AND JACOB TOVAR
THE RIP



A year in review: Women's basketball

By Mohamed Bafakih
Contributing Editor

Just one year following a Western State Conference-South Division championship and a trip to the postseason, the 2015-16 Bakersfield College women's basketball team was forced to watch the men's team cut the nets down instead as the Renegades concluded the season with a 6-18 overall record.

Five of those six wins, however, came during conference play, and with a team that featured nine freshmen on the roster, a long road awaits – but a rather promising one.

"You win some, you lose some, but I think we've really grown and we have a lot of people coming back next year," freshman MacKenzie Tevelde said.

Growth was the key focus this season for head coach Paula Dahl, and it showed despite the record and the growing pains that came along the way over the course of the year.

Starting the preseason 1-9 could easily begin to show a significant sign of players checking out, not to mention a 0-3 start to conference play putting them at 1-12, but the defending conference champions avenged it with a three-game winning streak with wins over Glendale, Antelope Valley and West L.A. between Jan. 16-23.

Dahl mentioned early on in conference, opponents' game plans were to "drill Kennedy [Nielson]," who was averaging nearly 20 points per game, but eventually the offense began to open up more for other players.

Double-digit scoring performances for multiple players such as McKaiela Tyler, Veronica Slade, Julie Olvera and Tevelde became common.

"We have come together as a team and that has made me very, very, very happy," Dahl said.

With that coming together, it took one of three sophomores on the team, McKaiela Tyler, to set the tone.

Tyler started in all 24 games this season and even with a bad ankle, which will require surgery in the offseason, persevered through it all.



JOE BERGMAN / THE RIP

Kennedy Nielson drives against West LA's Ashley Flemming (21). BC went on to win the game 71-53.

"McKaiela Tyler has brought such an amazing leadership role to our team and that has been huge for us," Dahl stated.

For Tyler, who averaged 13 points, 6.0 rebounds, and 3.4 assists per game on her way to a First Team All-WSC South selection, this was an eye-opening season for her after being part of a 23-5 ballclub last season.

"This season, I've learned way more than I did last season just because there were so many different obstacles and more ups and downs," Tyler said. "This year was a challenge, but in a good way because it's made me, and I feel like the entire team, better players."

Year in and year out, the changes within junior college athletic programs can be drastic, but the women's basketball program will have a hefty load of returning players to level the playing field.

BC swim splashes at Mt. SAC

By Mason J. Rockfellow
Editor in Chief

The women's and men's swim teams traveled to Mt. San Antonio College this past weekend to make a splash in a variety of different races.

With a solid week of training before the departure to Mt. SAC, they went into the meet a little tired. Plus, with the last meet not having as wide of a spectrum of races, it was good for them to compete and they all did as expected, said Moon.

"I think the biggest thing from the meet is just the experience that the whole team gained from swimming so many races in a short amount of time, along with the variety of races," said Moon. "It was fun to see them get that experience."

With quite a few conference teams missing from the Mt. SAC meet, it was still a good heads-up for what is to come for BC swimming, Moon explained.

"It was nice to go to this meet just to see, not necessarily who is in our conference, but who we may see at the state meet," Moon said.

Along with the variety of races, the relays were a good test of how the swimmers responded to being out of their comfort zones, as Moon was moving swimmers around to different spots.

"It was nice to see how they respond to relays. Some people swim a lot faster on relays... right now putting people on spots that they are not quite used to, and seeing how they respond to that. And it was fun to see that," said Moon.

The men's team finished off the meet in 5th place with a total of 367 points, and the women's team finished in 11th

with a total of 106 points.

On the men's side, Erik Wood took second place in the 50-meter butterfly with a time of 24.08 seconds.

Brian Bender placed 5th in the 50-meter breaststroke with a time of 29.65 seconds, 4th in 100-meter breaststroke at 1 minute 5.02 seconds, and 7th in the 200-meter breaststroke at 2:24.72.

Christian Chau placed 8th in the 200-meter butterfly with a time of 2:12.76.

Daniel Delgadillo swam the 1650-meter freestyle for the first time and did a little better than expected, and overall he did well in every race, said Moon. Delgadillo placed 13th in the 1650-meter freestyle with a time of 19:15.39.

On the women's side, Bri Smith took the win for the 50-meter breaststroke with a time of 33.35 seconds. Smith is also ahead of schedule time-wise, not to mention she has been battling a sore shoulder.

With Sara Klang still working toward her mid-distance freestyle swimming, Moon was pleased with Klang's 500-meter freestyle, where she came in at 9th with a time of 5:41.27.

Overall the women did well, explained Moon.

The women's team all had at least one event where they went their lifetime best, and some of them dropped a ton of time and swam really well.

Bakersfield College's swim team will be traveling to L.A. Valley College on March 4, and the following weekend they will be off to the Cuesta Invitational.

"I am looking forward to the next couple of weeks heading into the Cuesta Invite," said Moon.

BC's newest sport, sand volleyball, about to start its first season

By Carl E. Littleberry Jr.
Reporter

Bakersfield College welcomes a new sport this spring as coach Carl Ferreira gears his team up for its inaugural women's sand volleyball season. The team will open its first season by traveling to Ventura to face Ventura College and Pierce College on March 18.

However, fans looking forward to catching the team this

year will have to catch them at their only home matches against Antelope Valley and Rio Hondo College at Cal State University, Bakersfield on April 15.

The Renegades have already played four different colleges in friendly scrimmages, which coach Ferreira feels has helped his players transition from court to sand.

"It's less about the team and more about the individual in sand volleyball," said Ferreira.

With a focus more on individual development and offensive chemistry, Ferreira has been spending his time now learning which sets of players work well together and determining what his lineups will be for the upcoming season.

Key differences between sand volleyball and regular volleyball are the number of players and the loss of team-specific positions.

In sand volleyball, each school fields five two-woman teams

who play in dual matchups similar to that of tennis and its doubles matches.

Each team plays five matches, with the set winner being determined by best three out of five.

"It's like swimming without the lanes," said Ferreira. "Without lanes it becomes water polo, and I imagine even Michael Phelps would have trouble with that."

Ferreira doesn't feel the added pressure of coaching the first sand volleyball team in BC his-

tory.

As he transitions from regular volleyball, Ferreira is excited about the new opportunities the sport can offer his girls.

"We're the very first ever team. It's awesome. Fantastically awesome and now the sport can grow more and more starting from college on down," said Ferreira.

Also of note, Ferreira will be able to look toward sophomore Hannah Pope who is making the transition from the hardwood to

sand.

Along with Pope, Ferreira adds sophomores Sarah Aurin and Alyssa Mathews, both former BC volleyball players, whom each add needed depth and a semblance of experience for first-year coach Ferreira.

"Both Sarah and Alyssa played for me two years ago. Now that they have eligibility in another sport I'm hoping they can help our team this year," said Ferreira.

Tennis teams fall into recent slump



Brittney Aguilar serves the ball in her match against Santa Barbara City College. Aguilar went on to lose the match.



Brian Yanez awaits the serve in his match against L.A. Pierce. Yanez went on to win the match on Feb. 23.

By Marcus Castro
Contributing Editor

Both men's and women's Bakersfield College tennis teams lost two matches and won one since Feb. 20.

The men's team (5-5) played Fresno City College on Feb. 20 where they finished 2-7. BC's top three singles competitors Sammy Ramirez, Andrew Schwartz and Austin Lee all lost their matches.

BC's Christian Curutchague defeated Jordan Jizmejian of Fresno city 6-3, 6-0, and BC's Matt Wells and Curutchague won their doubles match 8-4.

BC men's team went on to play L.A. Pierce on Feb. 23 where they blew out L.A. Pierce 9-0.

BC singles winners: Ramirez (7-6, 6-2), Schwartz (7-6, 6-3), Lee (6-0, 6-0), Brian Yanez (6-0, 6-1), and Andrew Berdon (6-0, 6-0).

BC doubles winners: Ramirez and Lee (8-3) and Schwartz and Yanez (8-2).

The men's team later competed with Santa Barbara City College on Feb. 25. SBCC beat BC 8-1 leaving BC with only one winner that came from the singles. BC's Lee won his match against Andrew Tufenkian 6-7, 7-5, 11-9.

BC women's tennis team (6-4) lost to Fresno 7-2 on Feb. 20. The only singles player to win for BC was No. 6 Hannah Moreno. She was up 5-2 in the first set then the match ended in default due to injury. BC's Lucy Cisneros and Kaylee DeFrees won their doubles match 8-0.

The BC women went on to compete with Santa Monica on Feb. 23 where BC won 6-3.

BC's singles winners: Riley Tucker (6-0, 5-7, 6-3), DeFrees (1-6, 7-6, 7-5), Cisneros (6-1, 6-1), and Claire Tomboc (6-0, 6-1).

BC's doubles winners: Tucker and Aguilar (8-2) and DeFrees and Cisneros (8-0).

The BC women's team played SBCC on Feb. 25. SBCC swept the day leaving BC without a single win. DeFrees managed to win a single set but was the only BC player to do so.



Austin Lee hits the ball in his match against L.A. Pierce. Lee went on to win the match.



Left: Sammy Ramirez hits a backhand shot against his opponent from L.A. Pierce. Right: Kaylee DeFrees hits the ball in her match against Santa Barbara City College on Feb. 25.

Baseball wins one in series at Golden West

By Kyle Cortez
Reporter

The Bakersfield College baseball team played three games on the road against Golden West College on Feb. 18-20.

The Renegades (6-5) won the first game against Golden West, but then lost the next two games.

BC won 8-2 in the first game. BC starting pitcher Monty Stevens picked up the win. Stevens pitched eight innings, giving up only two runs on five hits while striking out three.

The Renegades offense was led by Luis Martinez, who went 3-for-5 with three RBIs and a solo home run. Harrison Smith went 2-for-4 with two RBIs.

BC lost 8-5 in the second game against Golden West. Jassen Oliver was the only Renegade who

had multiple hits. Oliver went 3-for-5 with an RBI. Freshman pitcher Austin Toerner picked up the loss. Toerner gave up six runs on seven hits through five innings. Luke Andrews pitched two innings of relief, giving up two runs on three hits while striking out four.

BC lost the rubber match against Golden West 2-1. Freshman pitcher Hudson Hartley got the loss. Hartley pitched eight innings, giving up two runs on eight hits while striking out five.

The Renegades only registered two hits for the whole game.

BC's next game is on March 3 against Pasadena City College in Pasadena.

BC's first conference game is on March 8 against LA Mission College in Sylmar. BC's next home game is on March 10 against LA Mission College.

Key injuries hampering BC softball team

By Felicity Tomisaka
Reporter

Bakersfield College's softball team competed in their annual BC tournament, where the team tied against Southwestern on Feb. 20, and then beat Moorpark 4-0 on Feb. 21.

The Renegades faced Allan Hancock on Feb. 25 as well, but lost 9-7. BC then traveled to Reedley on Feb. 26 to play against Reedley and San Mateo. The Renegades lost 4-0 to Reedley and 11-3 to San Mateo.

In the game against Southwestern, Karlee Goolsby was able to score when Mackenzie West singled to left to give the Renegades their first run in the bottom of the second inning. Alyssa Gonzales led the team in hits, one of which was a solo home run in the bottom of the eighth to tie up the game.

In the next game against Moorpark, BC's Janelle Gutierrez was hit by a pitch, allowing Gonzales to get the Renegades on the board. This would bring up Trinidad Lee, who singled to right, bringing home Gutierrez and Jordan Tomisaka. Then Casandra Sanchez, who got on base due to a fielder's

choice, scored from third after Lee's second base steal, leaving the game 4-0.

Coach Christie Hill's goal going into the tournament was to limit the team errors on defense.

"Errors have been a huge contributing factor to all our losses so far this preseason. We did not play as clean a defense as I would have liked against Southwestern, but against Moorpark, I was pleased with our efforts."

The team has lost some key players to injuries, such as left fielder Isabelle Martinez and center fielder Alexis Rodriguez.

Hill said, "Alyssa Gonzales has been probably one of the more effective hitters. She brings a lot of power to our four spot in the lineup. Marina has been doing a great job on the mound. She has started three of the last five, but has appeared in relief in the other two."

In the game against Allan Hancock, Lee and Gonzales led the team with two hits each. RBIs by Lee, Gonzales and Ruiz contributed to the Renegades seven runs. "Against Hancock, we did a great job fighting. We scored first, and then Hancock scored in the bottom of the first inning. We quickly answered back in the top of the

second. When Hancock scored in the bottom of the third inning, we again scored in the top of the fourth," Hill said.

In the game against Reedley, Hill felt the team was struggling both offensively and defensively.

"We faced a good pitcher that had good movement on the ball, and we struggled to adjust to her," Hill said. "Defensively, we need to be able to shut teams down after we get two outs. All of Reedley's runs were scored with two outs."

In the San Mateo game, the Renegades lost 11-3, even with Lee and Arambula's home runs. BC held a 3-2 lead until the bottom of the sixth inning. San Mateo then capitalized on errors made in the sixth inning, allowing them to score nine runs in the bottom of the inning.

Hill said, "We need to do a better job of putting the ball on the corner of the plate and not leaving the ball fat down the middle of the plate. Both Trini and Marina have done that in the past five games. No pitcher is perfect, but we need to be able to limit the numbers of fat pitches we throw during each game."

The Renegades next home game is against Glendale College on March 10.

GRAND CANYON UNIVERSITY



Quick description:

Grand Canyon University in Phoenix Arizona offers free trips to their campus for students who are considering transferring to the university.

Everything is paid for. They cover the hotel you stay at in Fresno before flying out, the cost of the round-trip plane ticket to Phoenix AZ, and the food you eat while on campus.

The Rip sent reporters Misty Severi and Sara Lievanos on this trip, which was organized by Julian West, an admissions counselor from GCU for Bakersfield and the surrounding area.

PHOTOS BY SARA LIEVANOS / THE RIP

Grand Canyon University Arena is home to the GCU NCAA Division-I basketball team. Concerts also take place here.

GCU provided an amazing trip for students

By Misty Severi
Reporter

Stepping off the bus at Grand Canyon University can be shocking. The campus had so much bright green showing that it took me by complete surprise. Compared to the (correct) assumptions that Arizona is a desert state, the bright green of the campus really stands out.

Imagine being in a new state with approximately 50 other students all from the West Coast, only one of whom you really know.

It can be overwhelming and it certainly took me a few minutes to get used to it.

But from the minute we stepped off that bus, the atmosphere became inviting and relaxed, the other students and faculty actually wanted us there.

We checked in and received our welcome packet, which included a schedule of the day's events and a free meal at one of their 18 restaurants on campus.

Directly after that, we were immediately welcomed by a free breakfast, filled with bagels with about seven different kinds of spreads, fruit, and a choice of orange juice or water.

Sara and I found seats beside three awesome girls, one from San Jose, one from Oregon, and the third was an admission's counselor.

It was exciting to hear about the differences between our state of California, and the much colder state of Oregon. How much forest and greenery there was compared to Bakersfield and what we think of in Southern California.

But our conversations didn't last long before we were told there was a campus tour leaving in just a few minutes.

As we made our way around the campus (which doesn't seem that big, until you stop paying attention to where you're going and end up getting lost) we heard all about exciting things that had happened recently. Katy Perry used their arena for rehearsal before the Super Bowl last year, and all the construction that was due to be finished before the fall semester like a 3,000-seat soccer stadium.

Grand Canyon University is also jokingly referred to as Grand Construction University due to their constant construction.

They have a top-ranked nursing program, which a majority of the students on the trip were majoring in.

Along with the 18 restaurants scattered throughout the campus, there are three gyms, fitness centers, a soccer field, sports arena, and the coolest part of the campus: the Thunderground.

The Thunderground is a place on campus for students to go and relax with their friends. It has a pool table, a ping pong table, places to sit, a "gamer chamber," which is a room where students can come and play some of their favorite video games if they don't have a system in their room, and a café on just the top level. Down below is a bowling alley free to students, a large TV area, and a large Jenga set.

Our tour guide, Kylie, a psychology major who transferred to GCU from Cal State Long Beach, was very friendly and full of knowledge about the campus and history of the university.

"The core class sizes here are really small, 25-1 ratio I think, so you get to really connect and know your professors," said Kylie. "The content in psychology is really fascinating to me. It's something that I've always enjoyed."

After we finished with the campus tour, we went through an introduction to the school that was given by Julian our admission's counselor.

We found out at the introduction that all textbooks have a set price of \$85 as long as you buy it online and all classes have their textbooks available online.

Stepping out of the orientation meeting for transfer students was sudden and surprising, going from the somewhat calm demeanor of having just come from a quiet room, where most people were in their own little worlds as they took in the surrounding group, to loud music coming from the speakers as they blasted the song "Come and Get It" by Selena Gomez.

After a lunch that was provided by the university, we had about two hours of free

time to wander the campus.

We explored the entire campus, roaming around the gift shops, talking to students and grabbing a smoothie at one of the restaurants before getting lost on our way to the next workshop.

There were three more workshops back-to-back, one about campus employment and internships, one on financial aid and scholarships, and the third was a student panel where Kylie was joined by three other students, two of whom were also transfer students.

Kylie and another of the students on the panel said that when they visited the campus when they were perspective students, they immediately felt right at home.

"The atmosphere is so welcoming, and it's a Christian-based school so I immediately felt like I belonged here," Kylie said as she answered questions from the audience.

After the panel, we were free to do what we wanted until we had to meet our counselor in order to head home.

Sara and I explored the campus a bit more, meeting a 17-year-old girl named Kaylie who is considering attending GCU in the Fall.

When asked what makes GCU stand out to her, Kaylie said, "The campus is really pretty and really modern, and it's a Christian college, so it's a lot smaller and more personal."

The Bakersfield and Taft group then went to the Thunderground where we bowled for an hour before heading up to meet Julian for our journey home.

We landed in Fresno at 9:15 p.m. exhausted but I personally felt it was an amazing day filled with adventure and full of useful information that'll make the decision of where to go after BC all the more difficult.

I think one of the Bakersfield students, Christian, said it best, "I honestly think this was the most fun trip that I've ever been on. Not saying that I've been on bad trips, but I honestly had a really great time on the campus."

If you're interested in going on one of these trips, contact Julian West at Julian.west@gcu.edu.



Above right: A section of the GCU campus where students can sit down and relax. Below above right: Students play a large version of Jenga in the Thunderground, a recreational room that has a bowling alley and other activities, at GCU.

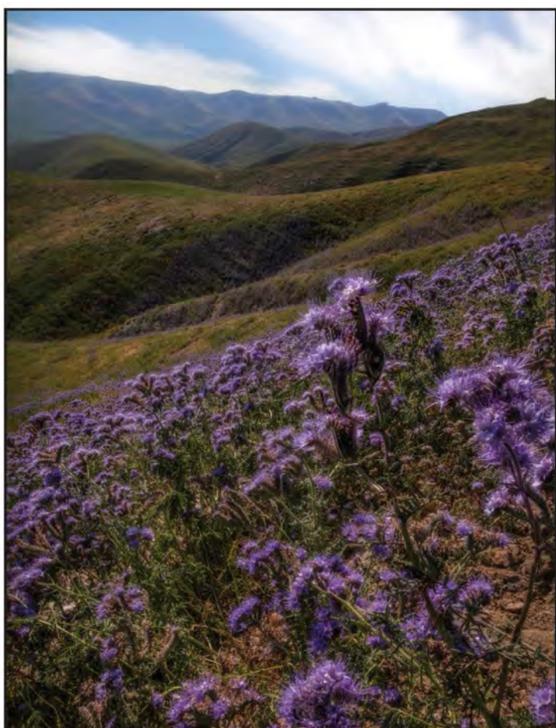
Left: Students walk toward a building under construction as they tour the GCU campus. Below: A sports mural on a wall at the GCU Thunderground showing the GCU mascot dressed in uniform. The mascot is known as Thunder.





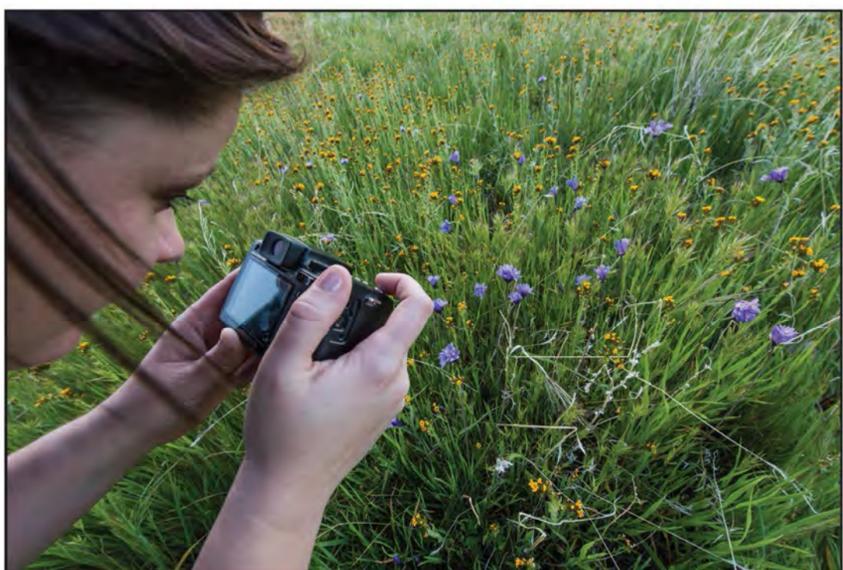
Wildflowers of Kern County

Photos by Kyle Chidgey



With the arrival of Spring, an annual occurrence happens in the hills and landscapes of Kern County. The blooming of wildflowers is an event to which nature enthusiasts and photographers alike flock during the spring months. Capturing beautiful images of these flowers is not hard, and exploring the hills and countryside of Kern County in search of these majestic flowers make for a great weekend outing.

Whether you are using your phone or own a DSLR camera, experiment with different angles and shoot during the fading light to achieve unique results. The Rip encourages those with an interest to take a photography class and learn how to break away from using the auto settings on their cameras.



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Attend an Information Session

Saturday, March 19, 2016 at 10 AM



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