



The Renegade Rip

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BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE

Wednesday, Nov. 15, 2017

Kern Kiwanis Club opens 'Reading Oasis' at the Friendship House Community Center

By Lizette Chavez
Editor-in-Chief

The Kern Kiwanis Club in partnership with the Friendship House Community Center held a ribbon cutting event for a new community Reading Oasis on Nov. 8. The event was held to celebrate the opening of a small library for children and their parents.

Lois Hannible, Community Action Partnership of Kern (CAPK) Friendship House Program Manager, spoke first at the event before introducing past president of Kiwanis Club of Kern Fred Kittredge, who then addressed the audience. Kittredge shared some of the moments that led to the opening of the Reading Oasis like the grants and help received and given by Kiwanis club members who ranged from architects, educators, and community leaders.

Kittredge said, "[It has been] just a little over two years, since the day that we started and today we're going to cut the ribbon, open the door and be able to actually see it and present it to our friends. We are so proud. Thank you."

The final speaker was Fuchsia Ward, a member of the Kiwanis Club of Kern and the Friendship House Club Advisory Board, who herself attended Friendship House

as a child in 1957 and later ended up working closely with Kiwanis in 1994.

"Friendship House is my heart, because it is really where I received my start. ... This project is very special to me also, when I was a kid we used to have a tutorial project here, ... when children are exposed to books, the more books they have access to, even better than economics in the home, books play a major role in students becoming highly educated. Economics is not the leading factor as most of us think."

After the speakers' speeches, the audience was asked to leave their seats and walk toward the Reading Oasis in order to witness the ribbon cutting.

Hannible, Kittredge and Ward cut the ribbon together and then opened the Reading Oasis and encouraged those attending to go inside and view the room as well as helping themselves to refreshments.

The Oasis Room was stocked with new books with the help of Scholastic and new computers to help local children with homework. The computers will also be used for an evening class for local parents to help introduce them to new technology and to help give them the resources to help their children with school work.



LIZETTE CHAVEZ / THE RIP

Greg Mudge, Fuchsia Ward, John Wagner, Lois Hannible, Callen Fondatzi, and Shirley Ventura smile and pose with some of the new books available at the new "Reading Oasis" and lab at the Friendship House Community Center in partnership with the Kern Kiwanis Club on Nov. 8, as guests were invited to look around the new books and computers available to children and their families, in hopes to encourage reading to elevate education in Southwest Bakersfield.

Veteran's Day festival is held on and off campus

By Ambria King
Photo Editor

Bakersfield College celebrated Veteran's Day with a week of festivities, including the unveiling of plans for the new Veterans Resource Center (VRC) on Nov. 8 and Vet Fest on Nov 9. The Bakersfield Veteran's Day parade was also held in Downtown Bakersfield on Nov 11.

The plans for the new VRC were revealed at a ceremony held in front of the Language Arts building. The ceremony included a speech by Lee Caldwell, a Bakersfield College student who is also a veteran. He shared how important having the current veteran's lounge has been to his college experience and expressed his excitement in regards to the new VRC.

The following day, Bakersfield College held Vet Fest from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event hosted a number of speakers, including Cristian Gutierrez, the current president of the Vet Club. Gutierrez spoke about all of the resources that Bakersfield College offers for vets, such as priority registration and access to a computer lab and those who can assist with registration. Local Band, Vanity Avenue, provided entertainment for the event; performing covers of popular alternative and rock hits.

Vet fest gave BC students and faculty a chance to gather together and celebrate the service and sacrifice provided by military veterans, many of which are also BC students. Diane Serrato, a current BC student shared her experience as an Army vet and expressed the issues she's faced that are unique to being a female



AMBRIA KING / THE RIP

Local Bakersfield residents march dressed as American revolutionaries during the downtown Vet's Day Parade.

military veteran.

Serrato served for a period of 8 years, from '83 to '91 and said that despite her years of service, she often isn't recognized as being a veteran unless she is wearing her dog tags or dressed in a manner that makes it obvious.

"I've been a veteran for quite a while... but you pretty much have to point it out. Even if I'm wearing something that has 'Army' written on it, people just think that I'm a spouse... they don't look at me as somebody who served," said Serrato.

Despite being out of the Army since 1991, Serrato still prefers spending her time with others

who have served. "There's just a brother and sisterhood that we share... We have familiar experiences. We understand each other. I think that we go to each other first when we need something. There's a lot of really young people on campus, and we [vets] have similar life experience," said Serrato.

That sentiment was expressed by a majority of the vets who spoke at vet fest. They expressed how pivotal having a center specifically designated to veterans was for their college experience.

On Nov. 11 Bakersfield held its annual Veteran's Day parade

Please see **Vet Fest** Page 7

Student Health Center helps with healthcare

By Megan Fenwick
Social Media Editor

The Bakersfield College Student Health Center will be having an Omni Family Health table available on campus to help students sign up during open enrollment for Medi-Cal and Covered California. An enrollment specialist has been available in the Campus Center Quad on Wednesdays since Oct. 25 and will continue to be on campus on select Wednesdays through the end of January. An enrollment specialist

has also been present on the Delano Campus on Wednesdays since Nov. 1 and will continue to be available through Jan. 31 as well.

Although the national deadline for open enrollment for health care is Dec. 15, open enrollment for Californian residents is extended to Jan. 31. However, for coverage on Jan. 1 to kick in, the deadline is still Dec. 15. For those who sign up after that date, coverage will not kick in until February or March.

"Our ongoing effort is to bridge campus to community

resources," said Ray Purcell, the director of the Student Health Center, regarding the center's effort to assist students in signing up for Covered California, the health insurance marketplace for the state. "So in establishing that bridge, from campus services to community services, then we broaden the base of what a student can require. In order for them to access that, they have to either qualify for Covered California or Medi-Cal."

To qualify for Medi-cal, Please see **ACA**, Page 7

Bakersfield City Council bans pot

By Ambria King
Photo Editor

The results of a vote held by the Bakersfield City Council on Oct. 11 have banned the operation of marijuana shops within Bakersfield city limits.

Despite the passing of Proposition 64, which legalized the possession and use of marijuana in the state of California and takes effect on Jan. 1 2018, Bakersfield city officials have

passed an ordinance which bans any commercial marijuana business from operating within the city.

The ordinance was passed with a vote of 5-1, with Councilman Willie Rivera giving the only vote in opposition of the ban.

Bakersfield residents aged 21 and over will still be able to possess up to one ounce of marijuana or 8 grams of concentrat-

ed cannabis. They are also able to grow up to six plants and possess the marijuana produced by those plants.

As of Nov. 1, more than 120 marijuana dispensaries operate within the limits of Kern County. After the Oct. 11 ban was passed, 20 shops were closed in Bakersfield, with 10 of those closures occurring after a mass sweep was performed by the

Please see **Marijuana**, Page 7

ONLINE

Answer the Renegade Rip's Poll online

Do you think student parking should be free for Bakersfield College students?

www.therip.com

Kern County assembly members oppose gas tax and increased registration fees signed into law by Governor Jerry Brown

By Melissa Puryear
Reporter

Governor Jerry Brown signed the tax at the pump and car fees bill, known as SB1 Transportation Act, which was approved by the Legislature back in early April of this year. The taxes and fees will pay for \$5.9 billion in ailing roads, transportation, and bridges infrastructure. The bill went into effect on Nov. 1. There is an effort underway to dismantle the bill and place the gas tax issue before the voters on Nov. 6, 2018, although the repeal initiative is currently unofficial, pending signatures.

The gas tax law and vehicle registration fee increases have faced opposition along the way, as Californians are already encumbered with some of the highest gas taxes in the nation. A poll taken by UC Berkeley's Institute of Governmental Studies found that when the gas tax issue was originally introduced, 63 percent of those respondents opposed a gas tax increase, while 74 percent of respondents opposed the higher vehicle registration fees, yet it became law.

Before the gas tax law was implemented on Nov. 1, a pre-existing law provided that the transportation, roads, and bridges infrastructure were funded in various ways. This included fuel excise taxes, commercial weight fees, local transactions and use taxes, and federal funds. The Department of the California Highway Patrol, which fell under the transportation portion of the former bill, received its revenues from the excess runoff each month, collected from vehicle registration fees at the Department of Motor Vehicles.

The law states that motorists will pay \$0.12 per gallon increase in fuel taxes, 50 percent of a \$0.20 per gallon increase in the diesel excise tax, with an inflation adjustment, and a Vehicle License Fee between \$25 and \$175, depending upon the value of the vehicle, to take effect on Jan. 1, 2018. For zero-emission vehicles (2020 and later) a \$100 fee will be imposed and take effect on July 1, 2020. The revenue received from these

taxes are deposited into the Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation Account. This law will remain active until 2027.

Two local assembly members, Democrat Rudy Salas and Republican Vince Fong of Bakersfield, who represent the State's 32nd and 34th assembly districts, respectively, which comprise most of Kern County, were vocal about their opposition to the gas tax, on the grounds that the taxes for the transportation infrastructure were paid in years past, but those taxes earmarked for California roads and transportation infrastructure, were diverted to pay non-transportation infrastructure costs.

Both said that residents in the valley have to drive farther to work and that the valley doesn't have a mass transportation system like other areas in California. Due to this lack of transportation reliance, those in the valley are going to pay even more.

Assembly members Salas and Fong contend that if the taxes during those years had been applied appropriately, there would be no need for the current gas tax bill. This means that struggling families could face a greater financial burden of driving their personal vehicles, with no options to alleviate the high cost of this forced-transportation alternative and that's a problem, according to Salas and Fong.

Fong said that "Californians will see less of their hard earned money going towards things that matter to them such as saving for their kids' college education, retirement, or buying a home. Even essentials such as food, energy, and housing will be more expensive as businesses pass on costs to consumers."

Fong said that SB1 "is a continuation of the failed accountability measures that were present in the existing law."

He also said that there are no new processes that have been written into the new law which means that there is no way of preventing the "existing practice of diverting money away from transportation funds into the general fund," and away from repairing roads, as is in the design of this new law.



MELISSA PURYEAR / THE RIP

Daina Valdovines, a Bakersfield resident, fills up her gas tank at a Fastrip gas station.

In fact, already 30 percent of the taxes generated, will come directly off the top and will not be applied towards repair of roads, based on the new rules within this law. "SB1 does not

change the status quo- it is business as usual," said Fong.

Fong introduced AB 496 earlier this year to reestablish the guarantee that there would be "transparency and accountabili-

ty" to transportation funding, but the AB 496 went unsupported by Sacramento leadership.

In an earlier statement this year, Salas said, "Because SB 1 imposes rather than asks Cali-

formians how and to what extent we should invest on our roads, I could not in 'good conscience' to my heart and to the families I represent, vote for a life-altering measure that does not at least ask them to weigh-in."

Carl Demaio, a former San Diego City Councilman and the Chairman of the Reform California initiative, is also opposed to the gas tax bill and it is why he has proposed the Reform California initiative to rescind the gas tax law. He began a signature collection for a petition to reverse the bill.

He said, "They [politicians] promise to fix the pot holes, but the reality is that the money is never used on what they say they will allot it to ... They use this as window dress, finding problems like potholes and roads to raise more money for their spending."

Demaio also believes that the bill should never have been introduced or passed in the first place, especially without the consent of the voters. The Reform California initiative will allow the voters to vote for or against the gas tax.

The gas-up realities for the working-class, and those who live on a shoestring budget according to Demaio, will look like this for Californians, "The more you spend on the road the more you are going to be taxed. If you gas up once a week with a vehicle that has a 20-gallon gas tank, then you're paying \$300 a year. This amount will double or triple if you gas up twice a week and so on."

Daina Valdovines, a Bakersfield resident, whose sister is a Bakersfield College student, opposes the gas tax hike and will vote for the repeal should it make it on the ballot next fall. "There should be another way to pay for the roads. I don't work, my husband's the only one that works. We have three children and two cars, so with gas going up, that's a big deal for us," she said.

Without a chance at a reversal, California will face ever increasing gas taxes as inflation rises because politicians sculpted a bill that would take inflation into account and raise taxes accordingly throughout the next 10 years.

UberEATS arrives in Bakersfield

By Melissa Puryear
Reporter

UberEATS, a newly emerging restaurant delivery service, launched by Uber, the same ride-sharing service shuttling people to and from places around the city, brought the food delivery concept to the Bakersfield market on Nov. 13.

Ordering food could not be easier, and is at the touch of a button, according to Stephanie Sedlak, a communications manager for UberEATS. Bakersfield residents need only to download the UberEATS app or order from the UberEATS website online, and then choose from more than 25 local restaurants available. Consumers are charged a standard "booking fee" of \$5.99 along with the cost of the food. But, according to Sedlak, "there are zero hidden fees."

According to Sedlak, one of the unique advantages to UberEATS is the ability to "track your order through every step of the process live, ensuring you are getting what you want, delivered at Uber speed."

She said that what makes their food delivery service different from standard restaurant delivery services is UberEATS' reliability and convenience, and the advantages of offering late night food and willingness to deliver meals to longer distances. "The same technology company that

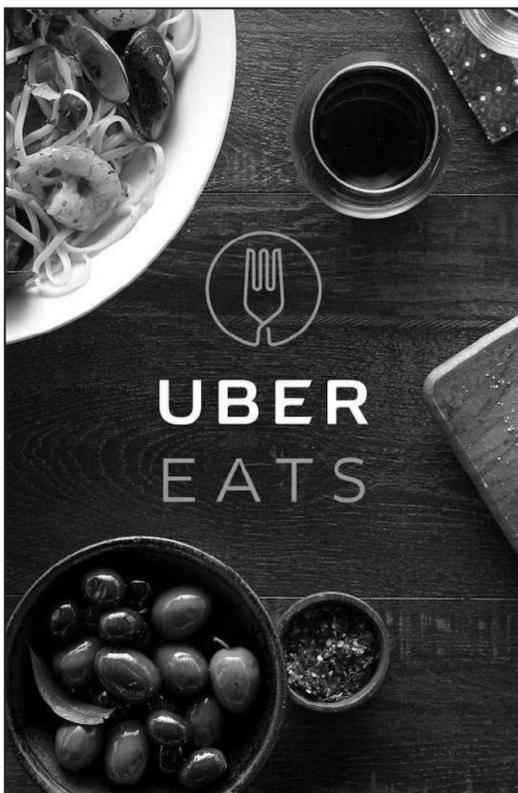
made getting around Bakersfield easy and reliable at the push of a button, is coming to make getting great food in Bakersfield as easy as requesting a ride," Sedlak said.

The UberEATS app will allow the consumer to rate their food and the delivery service, and also provide an optional tip after delivery.

Some of the restaurants consumers will be able to choose from are Deli Delicious, Fresco Mexican Grill, Knife & Fork Bistro and more.

Evan Aguilar, the Marketing Director for Fresco Mexican Grill, one of the restaurants who partnered with UberEATS, said that the main reason they chose UberEATS was based upon customer query. "Our customers have been asking us if we could deliver for years now, but it's not quite feasible for us to have a delivery person on staff when our average ticket price is less than \$10. UberEATS changes that by handling the delivery for us and in turn allowing us to serve more customers."

Aguilar also said that they were excited about partnering for the rollout in the Bakersfield market. He said that with UberEATS it allows them to offer ease and convenience to their customers. "Now with UberEATS, our customers will be able to order a Signature Burrito (steak, shrimp, bacon & more) from bed and



GOOGLE IMAGES

pick it up at the front door."

Consumers can choose as many dishes as they want from a restaurant, but if they wish to have food delivered from

more than one restaurant, there would be an additional \$5.99 charge for each restaurant and each order would be assigned to separate delivery drivers.

Sexual harrassment guidance from DeVos likely won't affect BC

By Megan Fenwick
Social Media Editor

Betsy DeVos, the United States Secretary of Education, withdrew an Obama-era Dear Colleague letter on Sept. 22 which outlined guidance for how college campuses should investigate accusations of sexual harassment and assault. The Department of Education also released a Q&A to give colleges and universities new guidance on how to handle such reports.

However, Christopher Hines, General Counsel for the Kern Community College District, says that this change will likely not affect Bakersfield College's investigative process. "The withdrawal of the Dear Colleague Letter should not have an immediate impact on California Community Colleges for the most part," said Hines. "The procedure for investigating sexual harassment, including sexual assault, for California Community Colleges is found in Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations."

According to Hines, the only aspect of the new guidance that he anticipates potentially affect-

ing BC is under question six, which dictates that details such as, "the identities of the parties involved, the specific section of the code of conduct allegedly violated, the precise conduct allegedly constituting the potential violation, and the date and location of the alleged incident" be provided to the accused party as well as the complainant.

"The Title 5 regulations do not require that the [districts] provide this level of notice to respondents. Some investigators fear that this requirement will interfere with their ability to conduct an effective investigation and that it could lead to retaliation against, or intimidation of, witnesses. It should also be noted that if federal regulations are passed which are consistent with the new OCR guidance then they could have the effect of preempting the Title 5 regulations," said Hines.

As it currently stands, the guidance released by the Department of Education is not law and therefore KCCD will continue to adhere to state law when handling accusations of assault and harassment.

Beard competition held to help children



MELISSA PURYEAR / THE RIP

One contestant in the Business Beard category presents his opponents beard.

By Melissa Puryear
Reporter

Men with handle-bar whiskers, business beards and women in crafted (fake) beards traveled from Southern California and Northern California, to Bakersfield, to compete for clout and wooden plaques, and all for a good cause, to raise money and awareness for Bikers Against Child Abuse B.A.C.A. at the Beard Bash on Nov. 11 at Prohibition in Rosedale.

That Beard Stuff, a local company that provides men's beard grooming and mustache care line products, sponsored the beard competition for the non-profit. All proceeds raised at the event were donated for the services that the organization of biker advocates for child victims of abuse provide. Bowza, a local chapter member and board member, said that his organization provides round-the-clock protection, and accompaniment to court hearings so children feel empowered and safe.

The founder of That Beard

Stuff, Tawnee Shelton, said the idea to sponsor The Beard Bash came from having attended beard competitions for years. She said, "We go to a lot of beard competitions. We wanted to have a beard competition with a purpose."

Ty Shelton, Tawnee Shelton's husband, said the reason they chose the non-profit organization B.A.C.A. to receive 100 percent of the proceeds was that, "They are very near and dear to our hearts. We are honored and humbled to do what we do. In putting on a beard competition [with B.A.C.A. as the recipient] there was no other organization in mind except them."

That Beard Stuff, a 4-year-old company, was destined to be, according to Ty Shelton. His wife did not like how "wiry" his beard felt, so she told him to shave it. He refused. They began looking for products online that would solve the problem. There weren't many products dedicated to beard groomers, and those products that were available, were expensive.

Tawnee Shelton was "crafty"

and was convinced she could create a formula for her husband, and that's how the Shelton's company was born. Tawnee Shelton began advertising it online as That Beard Stuff because she couldn't think of a name for it. Ty Shelton said he received a phone call at work one day when his wife put the product online and he said the name she gave it interim, "just felt right," so they kept it.

The Beard Bash showcased women in crafted beards in a category dubbed "Whiskerinas." There was a crochet beard with adornments hanging from it, and a beard that almost looked real on one woman with an unlit cigarette dangling from her lips. There was a colorful beard on a woman in a unicorn onesie with a tail and a bushy beard you might expect to see on Santa Claus.

There were 11 men beard categories with firm rules so that participants would not have unfair hair advantage. They were Natural Mustache (no styling aids allowed), Styled mustache (styling aids allowed), Goatee (mustache



MELISSA PURYEAR / THE RIP

First Place winner Clark Skinner, tries to wow the judges and excite the audience for Natural Mustache category.

and chin hair can't connect to sideburns), Partial beard (broken line from temple to temple or no mustache), Business beard (full beard under 2 inches), Natural beard over and under 12 inches (must have unbroken line from temple to temple and no styling aids for mustache), Styled beard over and under 12 inches (no styling aids allowed for mustache), Freestyle (anything goes) with the category to close out the competition named Best in Show. Best in Show was where the number 1 finalists went beard to beard, beard to stash, or stash to stash against each other and the man or woman whose hair was deemed the best, won first

place, overall.

Winners each received a wooden engraved plaque.

Three judges, John Banks, Nate Johnson and Rob Juker determined the winners in each category.

Angry Brians, a local Celtic rock band, featured guitarist and mandolin player Rich Cheney, Valerie Byrnes on bagpipes, Douglas Kirk on bass, and Walter Baldwin on drums and percussion. They even featured a new female vocalist.

There was plenty of food, raffle prizes, and music to keep people occupied through the 5-hour event, which raised, at night's close, over \$1,200.

'Gamers are not dead'

Video Game Culture:
From a veteran's perspective

"Gamers" are not dead. Several articles written by video game journalism websites were posted in late August 2014 and early September 2014 stating that gamers are not part of a culture and that they are all angry.

In an article written by Leigh Alexander from gamasutra.com, Alexander writes, "Game culture" as we know it is kind of embarrassing — it's not even culture. It's buying things, spackling over memes and in-jokes repeatedly, and it's getting mad on the internet."

Several other articles followed the one written by Gamasutra. Kotaku, Polygon, The Daily Beast, Financial Post, BuzzFeed, VG247, Ars Technica, Vice, Destructoid, The Guardian, and Rock Paper Shotgun all said how

G a m e r s and the culture of gaming is dying due to them spreading hate across the internet.



Brandon Cowan

The people that wrote these articles do not know what gamers are.

There has always been a narrative that has been being pushed onto video games.

First there was the scare of whether or not video games cause violence. Then there was the scare of video games causing misogyny.

Gamers do not care about your identity politics. Gamers care about video games.

The only thing that matters is whether or not a video game is good. If the game is bad, no amount of catering to the audience is going to sell the game.

People need to understand that video games are not real; video games are an art form.

No sane person will kill people because they kill people in a video game. No sane person will hate a political movement or a gender because they can kill women on a television screen.

Yes, women die in video games. Yes, players can have sex with women in video games. Yes, players can hire female prostitutes in "Grand Theft Auto: V" and then kill them to get their money back. No, this does not make me hate women or think of them as an object.

I have grown up playing video games from before I can remember. I do remember playing "The Legend of Zelda: Ocarina of Time" and playing as a man to save a woman. I do remember playing "Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas" as a kid and killing prostitutes to get my money back.

As a gamer, I do not care about what you look like. I do not care if a video game depicts the gender that you are as an object.

I do not care if the video game kills your gender in a video game. All I care about is if the game is fun. I could not care any less about how a woman dresses in a video game.

These journalists say that women get targeted on the internet in video games. While that is true, it is missing out the fact that the internet is a disgusting place full of anonymous people harassing everyone.

They target the things that will hurt you the most. They target your race, gender, age, and anything else that could make you mad.

Gaming is not for everyone, and if you can get hurt by what kind of clothes characters in video games are wearing, then you should just play that game.

'The Book of Liz' makes BC students laugh

By Jenny Brito
Reporter

The Empty Space Theater premiered its latest play, "The Book of Liz," on Nov. 10 at 8 p.m.

"The Book of Liz" lasted 80 minutes without intermissions, yet time seemed to fly by for audience members who could not stop laughing at the story of Sister Elizabeth Donderstock.

Sister Liz, played by Kristina Saldana, makes the cheese balls that sustain the existence of her religious community, Clusterhaven.

Saldana managed to keep the audience delighted with her portrayal of a girl who is both scared yet adventurous at times.

Sister Liz began to feel unappreciated after Reverent Tollhouse, portrayed by Steve Evans, brought another man to the community and claimed that he could do a better job without all the bickering of Liz. Brother Nathaniel Brightbee, played by Paul Sosa, soon took over the

job that Liz had been doing her whole life.

Feeling frustrated, Liz decided to leave her home. The play focuses on life outside of a religious community, and how it impacted Sister Liz.

On her adventures, she met Oxana, portrayed by actress Angela Poncetta, who helped her find a job as a waitress.

Liz then worked as a waitress and was eventually promoted to a manager position. However, becoming a manager would require that she wear a short skirt, which went against her religion.

She is then faced with a difficult decision: should she sacrifice her values so that she can succeed in her new home? Would things change if she went back home?

These questions are hilariously answered as the play develops.

Written by Amy and David Sedaris, and directed by Michael Pawloski, "The Book of Liz" will be playing at the Empty Space until Nov. 18.



JENNY BRITO / THE RIP

Sister Liz, played by Kristina Saldana, is informed that she will have to wear short skirts in order to become a manager.

Bakersfield's Comic-Con will have collectables and art

By Alexandra Apatiga
Reporter

The Kern County Fair Grounds will be hosting the 10th Annual Bakersfield Comic-Con for a two-day weekend convention on Nov. 18 and Nov. 19 to celebrate comic books, cosplay, art, games, and other popular entertainment platforms.

Attendees can expect vendors and artists from across Bakersfield to be selling their wares, such as Silver Wolf Comics & Collectables and The Gaming Spot, as well as various fan groups and organizations such as Bakersfield R2 Builders, the Star Wars 501st, and CSUB Campus Gamers.

Other events that will be happening throughout the weekend include a mini renaissance fair Fantasy Convention, featuring The Horsemen of Judgements Keep, the 8th annual charity raffle with all proceeds going

towards the Bakersfield Rescue Mission Food Drive, and multiple costume contests for contestants over and under 16 years of age. There will also be various Q&A panels and autograph signings with special guests like Lisa Loring, who played the original Wednesday Addams from "The Addams Family," cartoon legend Sergio Aragones, C. Andrew Nelson, who is best known for his portrayal as Darth Vader from the "Star Wars" franchise, and Pat Priest, who will be making her final convention appearance at Bakersfield Comic-Con.

The Bakersfield Comic-Con made its first appearance at the Double Tree by Hilton hotel and was organized by Bakersfield resident Steve Wyatt. With nearly 43 years of experience in the comic book industry, organizing and attending comic book conventions, Wyatt's first Bakersfield Comic-Con brought out nearly 400 people. But since the

first convention, Wyatt has gathered support and sponsors from the Bakersfield community and the event has grown to nearly 5,000 attendees as of last year.

"Before I started this, there were smaller comic book conventions in town, but none of them were very involved with the community as a whole" said Wyatt, "I knew I could do better, with all the experience I've gathered over the years, and as a local resident I felt it was only right to try and make a better Comic-Con where everyone could participate and get excited about," said Wyatt.

Wyatt has earned the support of local stores such as Paladins Game Castle and Man Bites Dog Emporium, as well as comic book and gaming stores across Bakersfield in promoting the convention.

"The only reason we've grown to the size we are at now is because of all the support the com-

munity and the fans of comic books have given us," said Wyatt.

To show his gratitude, Wyatt explained, he has made every effort to keep Bakersfield Comic-Con local and as affordable as possible, while still inviting famous guest stars and artists and expanding the convention to new heights.

According to Wyatt the trick to creating a successful convention is finding a balance between quality and quantity. "What you don't want to do is hold a convention the first year, and then immediately double the size of it the next year, that will put too much strain and expectation for future events that you can't meet" said Wyatt.

After nearly 10 years of hosting Bakersfield Comic-Con, Wyatt explained that he will continue to give his supporters and the city a fun and memorable experience.

"It's really the fans who've

kept this event going," said Wyatt. "Without their feedback and support, I never would've imagined Bakersfield Comic-Con getting as big as it is today."

For the 10th Annual Bakersfield Comic-Con, special limited edition pins will be handed out opening day, along with Bakersfield Comic-Con t-shirts, and a Fantasy Convention which will be held right outside the warehouse buildings.

Admission to the Bakersfield Comic-Con starts at \$8 for a one-day pass Saturday or Sunday, and \$15 for a two-day weekend. For children under 15 years old, a one-day pass for either day is only \$5 and \$8 for a two-day pass, with children under 8 years old getting in for free. There is also a parking fee for \$5.

Bakersfield Comic-Con begins Nov. 18 at 10 a.m. For more information of the convention and events, go to bakersfield-comiccon.com.

Kern Energy Festival educates



CHRISTINA BENAVIDES / THE RIP

Bakersfield College representatives for the STEM department interact with children at the Bakersfield Energy Festival.



CHRISTINA BENAVIDES / THE RIP

Taft College offering children attending the event to play a bowling game.

By Christina Benavides
Reporter

The second Kern Energy Festival (KEF), was held at the Kern County Museum on Nov. 11. The event happened 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and admission was free to the public. Every two years, the KEF takes place, according to Chairman of the Kern Energy Foundation, Chad Hathaway. Hathaway added that there were over 100 vendors that day and an

expecting 5-6,000 attendees. In addition, there was a section labeled “Kids Zone” that featured interactive activities for children. The activities included; mobile learning units sponsored by Chevron, and a STEM zone (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics). Hathaway explained that the event was created to bring energy and the community closer together, and to celebrate our energy industry in Kern County. He

also mentioned the importance of oil and gas. “Oil and gas is such an important part of our community, thousands and thousands of people work in that industry, and our tax is based mainly on oil and gas,” Hathaway said. He concluded that the purpose of the day was to celebrate the industry and educate our locals. One energy related vendor, Kern Citizens for Energy, was invited to the KEF. Julie Bell,

28, member of Kern Citizens for Energy, spoke highly of their work advocating energy in Kern County. Bell mentioned that the non-profit organization has been in existence for four years, and their main goal is to bring light to the conversation of energy. Adding, that they also introduce energy in education in schools, and recently had a mobile oil field learning unit in Arvin at Haven Drive middle

school. She also included that they have advocated for energy at California State University of Bakersfield and Bakersfield College in the past, and that it is important to talk about the topic within education. “There is so much misinformation out there and I think because Kern County has so much gas production, and it is such a driving factor in our economy, and a huge part in our commu-

nity, it is important for people here locally to be educated,” Belle said. She also explained that it is important to educate our youth because a lot of kids, and even college students are misinformed about the energy industry, and it affects our environment. All proceeds made at the KEF will go to educational charities. For more information on KEF visit www.KernEnergyFestival.com.

Wind Wolves Preserve hosts a fundraiser that is titled ‘Child in the Wild’ to help education programs

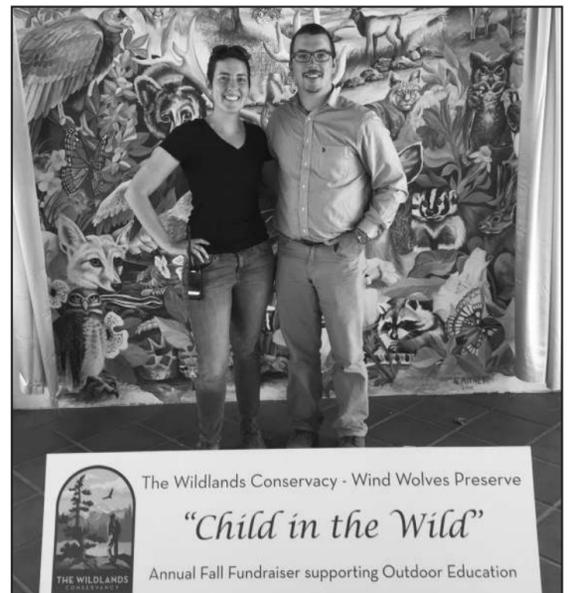
By Melissa Puryear
Reporter

Wind Wolves Preserve, a 93,337-acre non-profit nature preserve, located near the Grapevine, hosted their 2nd annual fundraiser, “Child in the Wild,” event on Nov. 4 from 6-8:30 p.m. The fall fundraiser cost \$35 and featured local speakers, some of whom represented a variety of school districts in Kern County, food, drinks and entertainment. The event brought in funding for the outdoor educational program that Wind Wolves offers. They host up to 10,000 Kern County students annually and is a part of 15 current preserves

across the state of California that have educational programs for children. Wind Wolves mission is “To preserve the beauty and biodiversity of the earth and to provide programs so that children may know the wonder and joy of nature,” according to Landon Peppel, who is the preserve Manager and Northern Conservation Director for the Wildland Conservancy. According to Peppel, “Child in the Wild” will fund the “11 different programs of which teach common core curriculum, national science standards ... ethno-body Native American culture, geography and the solar system, evolution and diversity,

with a whole-wide range of programming, as well as hands-on service learning, and stem programming, overnight camping experiences.” He said that hosting events like these allow for children to get an outdoor education with an emphasis on curriculum that supports what students are learning in the classroom. They have recently added bilingual programming to “better address the variety of demographics that use the preserve,” Peppel said. As far as financial goals that the program anticipated to meet from the fundraiser, they expected around \$30,000 to \$50,000, according to Peppel.

Attendees included, “company and corporate sponsors that provided financial contributions for the event, and the people who purchased tickets,” according to Peppel, with many local sponsors who shared in the educational fundraising venture, such as Micoe Productions, California Resources Corporation, Chevron, Kaiser Permanente, Vulcan Materials, and WRA, Inc. Peppel mentioned that there were many more sponsors and contributors to the event, such as Bakersfield Museum of Art, CSUB, The Garlic Company and Panera Bread, Jennifer Williams Photography and Two Galz Photography.



MELISSA PURYEAR / THE RIP

Left – Melissa Dabulamanzi (Education Director) and right – Landon Peppel (Director of Wind Wolves) posing.

Renegade Struggles: Christiana Livingston

We all have a struggle, and every person has a different story. Each issue of The Rip will feature a student overcoming certain struggles to gain an education and better their life.

By Christopher Cocay
Reporter

Christiana Livingston, 22, grew up in a religious family where she was home-schooled, and now she is a major in English at Bakersfield College. Livingston is the oldest of five children. She was born in Oakland, and her family is part of a ministry where they talked about Christianity on the streets of San Francisco and Berkeley. She said her family lived in a ministry house for nine years. They moved to Bakersfield when she was 10. She said “I don’t like that it’s so hot, and I don’t like how the air is bad here in Bakersfield, but I’ve met some really good people and they have some really cool stories here. But unlike Ba-

kersfield, Oakland had a perfect weather, it’s like 75 everyday all day, all year.” Livingston loves to read books, draw, read poems and listen to music. She said that she wants to be a writer someday. That’s why she’s majoring in English. Her favorite book is “IT” written by Stephen King. She also plans on double majoring in English and History. She said “I love History because it studies about everything that happened, it shows how people have always been funny and violent, and horrible. History is really really funny, and really really violent and sad, and there’s so many secrets that we don’t know about, and it’s really cool to see how everything is connected.” When asked about her struggles with school, Livingston said

she’s not really good with doing her homework, she always wait until last minute to do all of her homework. “I usually do homework the day before it’s due or sometimes in class. I am a procrastinator. I always think of other things that I could be doing, and I also work better under pressure, so sometimes I wait purposely until the last minute, so that I could do better, but, I know that if I actually applied myself, I’ll probably do better a lot than I am doing even though I do pretty good in my classes anyway. I know how to be stable with my classes, but I don’t really know how to do my best,” said Livingston. She also mentioned about her struggles with family and friends, “Being the oldest child is difficult because you’re the



CHRISTOPHER COCAY / THE RIP

Christiana Livingston reads the novel “Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe” written by Benjamin Alire Saenz.

one that everyone looks up to, and your parents sometimes use you as a guinea pig, they test things on you like you can’t do other things, and you have to wait till you get old to do something, and the younger kids are allowed to do the things you aren’t allowed to do, so it’s kind of hard to deal with that, with all the expectations, and as I’m

getting older and still living in my parent’s house, it’s difficult. But with friends, I didn’t really have a lot of struggles, but when I was in high school, I didn’t have a lot of friends. It’s not because I was home-schooled, it’s because I wasn’t really being friendly, and I was really shy,” she said. Livingston said she deals

with her problems by being content with wherever she is right now whenever she has a problem. “When I have a problem, I’ll think that it’s not that a big of a problem, sometimes, I ignore my problems until I don’t think of it as a problem anymore, or sometimes, I try to resolve it the best way I can,” she said.

BC Performing Arts will showcase Orwell's '1984'

By Alexandra Apatiga
Reporter

The Bakersfield College Performing Arts Department will be showcasing a play adaptation of George Orwell's novel "1984," adapted by Robert Owens, Wilton E. Hall Jr. and William A. Miles Jr. and directed by BC theater professor Kimberly Chin.

The play is set to hold shows from Wednesday Nov. 15 through Saturday Nov. 18 and will be performed in The Black Box Theatre in the Performing Arts Center (PAC 107). The doors will open at 7 p.m. and the show will begin at 7:30 p.m., with a matinee daytime showing of the play on Nov. 18 at 2 p.m.

The novel, which the play is based on, was published in 1949 and was written as a warning for humanity not to give into government control.

According to Chin, the world that the play is set in is a dystopian society ruled under a totalitarian government, where all free-thought and will are suppressed and citizens are always under surveillance.

Chin explained that "1984," while a work of fiction, can easily be compared to our own world, and she expressed her



ALEXANDRA APATIGA / THE RIP

BC student Chris Nisbett as O'Brien and Andrew Beard as Winston Smith, act out a scene from Orwell's "1984".

hope that audiences will see both Orwell's original message, as well as the efforts of her actors in expressing that message.

"The arts are powerful" said Chin, "With theater, actors need to be able to understand the message of the script and who their characters are when performing for an audience."

"If my students aren't able to understand who they are playing and why, then the overall message loses its meaning."

Among Chin's students who

will be performing in "1984" include Chris Nisbett, a BC Theater major and actor who has performed in several BC productions.

Nisbett's character O'Brien, will serve as the main antagonist of the play.

"It's always stressful before we go on stage because there comes a point during rehearsals and setup where we just can't wait for the play to be over," said Nisbett, "But once it's all said and done, you just can't wait for



ALEXANDRA APATIGA / THE RIP

Andrew Beard and Carlie Wood rehearse a scene.

the next one."

Tickets for "1984" can be purchased through Vallitix.com or at the door the night of the play. Admission starts at \$12

for general admission and \$8 for students, faculty and staff, military, and seniors, no children under six years old will be allowed entry.

Make new sugar rules

Health Advice: Practical tips for staying healthy

Although I grew up in another country, I was always somehow connected to America. My father used to travel to the United States for business frequently, so I grew up hearing stories about his adventures in America. Whenever he came back from his trips, I would stay awake just to see what presents he brought me. Don't get me wrong, I wanted to see him too, but, secretly, it was all about the candy.

The U.S. has many wonderful things to offer, which is why people all over the world dream of coming here. For children, however, the appeal of the United States is the unmeasurable number of toys, candy and Disney World. When I first came to America, I was still a child at heart, so I went crazy every time I entered a Walmart. There were so many things to see, and, most importantly, so much candy to eat.

Needless to say, I gained like a million pounds thanks to the variety of sugar sources found in this country. Of course, that isn't the country's fault, but my own. I let



Jenny Brito

myself go every time I saw any colorfully-wrapped treasure on the shelves. Sweets brought back childhood memories of back home, and I craved those feelings.

Most people have developed unhealthy eating habits based on how certain foods make them feel. Sugar is number one when it comes to making people feel good, so their bodies crave it. In fact, there is a biological reason for this.

First, sweets raise our blood sugar, which results in a quick energy boost. However, the energy boost is short-lived and followed by a crash, and then we need more. Second, sugar delivers serotonin to our brain. Serotonin affects our mood, among other things, and it makes us feel happy. The positive feelings fade quickly, and we need more sugar to get the same effect. This can lead to a cycle of dependence that is very similar to other addictions.

Breaking free from our sugar-dependence is not easy, but it can be done. Understanding how sugar affects our bodies might help us be more committed to eliminating it from our diet. Sugar makes us hungry, moody, sluggish, and fatter. It also leads to a myriad of health issues including diabetes and high cholesterol. Because of that, I believe that quitting sugar is key to becoming healthier.

To eliminate sugar from our diets, we need to identify whether a product has sugar. When looking at ingredients, be wary of these terms: high fructose corn syrup, malt sugar, or organic cane juice. These are sugar sources. Also, try to avoid artificial sweeteners. While they do not contain calories, they can increase your cravings for sugar and fat. Lastly, increase your protein and fiber intake. These can help you experience fewer cravings.

Most importantly, you should know that you have the power to reset your sweet tooth. However, it takes time and a lot of commitment. My recommendation is that you focus on achieving smaller goals. Baby steps can take you far, so begin by removing at least one teaspoon of sugar a day. Eventually, you will be able to skip the sugary snacks for a week, then two weeks, and then a month. Something that helped me with the cravings was replacing unhealthy snacks with fruits; fruits also contain sugar but in fewer quantities. Whatever you decide, be kind to yourself and your body, and know that it is okay if you fall off the wagon. When that happens, don't beat yourself up over it, don't let it send you spiraling out of control. Get back up and try again; consistency will get you to where you want to be.

BC Professor Reggie Williams hosts final Gadfly Cafe session of the Fall semester in the Levan Center

By Brandon Cowan
Web Editor

Hosted by Reggie Williams, a philosophy professor, The Gadfly Café was held for the last time this fall semester on Nov. 8.

The Gadfly Café was started by a Bakersfield College professor named Rene Trujillo.

Held in The Levan Center for Humanities, The Gadfly Café offers different topics and themes for students to discuss. This semester, topics have ranged from wealth policies and progress to robotics in everyday life.

This time, Williams hosted The Gadfly Café, and will continue to do so for the spring semester. The topic for the Nov. 8 Gadfly Café was religion, purpose, and values.

Williams started off the discussion with the gathering of students by asking the question of how non-religious people get morals and whether or not religion is a necessity or if it has become outdated.

Kari Tiger, 25, said that she spent a majority of her childhood years in a church and said, "There's definitely a purpose to religion. There's a service that provides a community and, in a sense, it brings people together."

One student brought up how if someone does not have parents, religion may be able to help in

teaching those individuals right from wrong.

Williams said that we frequently hear the saying "God, the Father." He added, "Not all cultures can see God in that way. There are different understandings of God that might well be

in the room, but frequently in the West we tend to think that way."

The topics that are held for The Gadfly Café are open for anyone interested to join. The next session is set to be held in the spring at the Levan Center for Humanities.



MEGAN FENWICK / THE RIP

Rob Parsons, a retired STEM professor, shares a story about discussing climate change with a man at a bar.



MEGAN FENWICK / THE RIP

Bakersfield College student Kari Tiger, 25, and professor Reginald Williams laugh after Williams made a joke at the Gadfly Cafe event held in the Levan Center.

Comic Con Review

My first time at the LA Comic Con

By Karla Gutierrez
Reporter

Stan Lee Comic Con, also known as Los Angeles Comic Con, was held at the Los Angeles Convention Center Oct. 27 to 29. I've only been to the Bakersfield Comic Con, so I thought it would be interesting to go outside of my Bakersfield bubble and go to this convention. Plus, some of my favorite people were going to be there like Stan Lee and Pee-wee Herman; there were also going to be independent pro wrestlers like the Young Bucks (Matt and Nick Jackson), Fale, Tama Tonga, Tanga Loa, etc., who I am a big fan of.

I thought it was going to be confusing on where everything was, but that wasn't the case at all. They led people to where they needed to go and had noticeable signs for whatever the case may be.

I knew they were going to have exclusive stuff like POP! Vinyl, comic books, apparel, etc. They were very organized with a line to get exclusive goodies. I saw really creative costumes like King Boo from Mario, Bendy from Bendy and the Ink Machine, Teen Titans crew, etc. During the time as well, Stan Lee was actually doing a Q&A on the main stage.

I finally got to the front of the line and bought glow in the dark POP! Vinyl Ahsoka from "Star Wars Rebels", Funko The Joker (Martha Wayne) Hot Topic Exclusive, and a limited Stan Lee Comic Con t-shirt. I was a smart thinker knowing that I was going to be sucked into purchasing exclusive stuff, so I brought

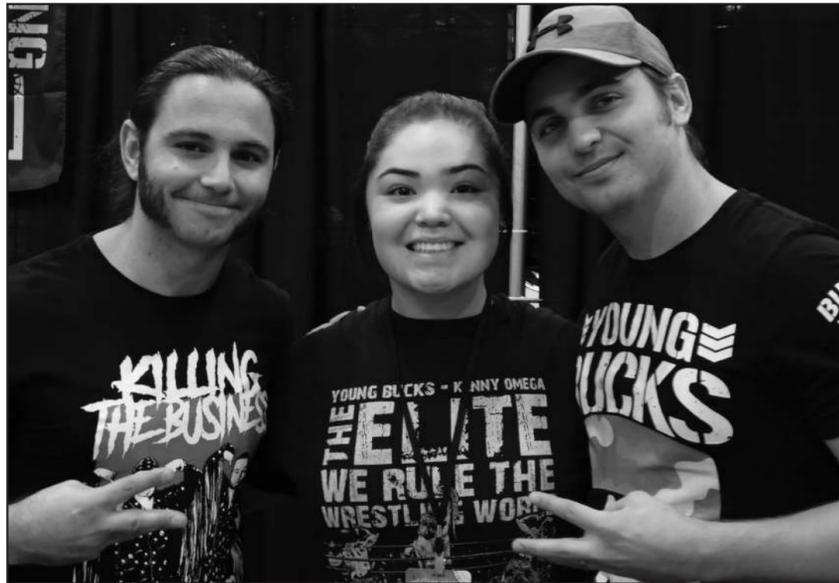


PHOTO PROVIDED BY ADRIAN GUTIERREZ

The Young Bucks and Karla Gutierrez pose for a photo at the Los Angeles Comic Con.

coupons.

I got a bit lost on where the celebrities/artists were because they were hidden in the back of all the exhibitions, so I think they should fix that next year. Other than that, I did get to meet the people I went for. I made long conversation with all them and they were super nice. The line I had to wait the longest in was for the Young Bucks because they were probably the draw for the wrestling part of the convention. It was definitely worth the wait.

When waiting to meet the Young Bucks, I was on the lookout to see where else I could go since their panel wasn't until later that day. There was a lot of voice

actors like Sandy Fox who has played various characters from shows like "The Simpsons," "Futurama," etc. There was also Susanne Blakeslee who played Wanda from "The Fairy Odd Parents." And one I actually got to meet is Greg Baldwin who has voiced characters from "Avatar: The Last Airbender," "Star Wars: Clone Wars," "Samurai Jack," and my personal favorite Frank Fontaine from "BioShock."

The cool part about Comic Cons are that people get to showcase their cosplays. I saw Rick and Morty, Samuri Jack, Batman, etc. and they won prizes for it too. Other people got to show how they made some of their

creations.

The day ended with the wrestling panel that was held in the main stage and that was awesome because when does someone get to see a person get put through a table at a Comic Con. It was insane. People there that don't watch wrestling probably thought it was weird or someone should be calling 911 because there was a fight. Everyone was safe at the end because they are professionals, after all.

I definitely recommend anyone to go to one of these conventions to get their minds off of things and just have fun.



Concert Review

Bruno Mars performance has 'no comparison'

By Jenny Brito
Reporter

The first time I listened to "Nothing on You," by Bruno Mars, I knew I would be a life-long fan. In addition to his voice that has no comparison, his moves remind me of Michael Jackson. So, when my friend asked me if I wanted to go to his concert, I didn't think twice.

On Nov. 2, I traveled to Fresno for the 24K Magic World Tour. The show was scheduled for 8 p.m. at the Save Mart Center. To be honest, I did not expect much from the venue considering that it is Fresno, but I was wrong. Its location makes it an excellent choice, there is plenty of parking, and it can hold up to 16,000 people.

Mars had canceled a concert in Denver earlier in the week due to a sinus infection, and I was worried that he would cancel again. I realized that a thousand others would be disappointed as well after I arrived at the location and saw the long lines hours before the event started.

Waiting in line was an experience itself. People of all ages were in attendance, which was a pleasant surprise considering my own age. They danced to music played by a local radio station and anxiously waited to get in. Doors opened at 6:30 p.m., which gave everyone about an hour and a half to mingle and spend money.

There were plenty of options



GOOGLE IMAGES

for those who wanted to grab a bite, and alcoholic beverages ranged from beers to frozen margaritas. I bought a pina colada and headed to the merchandise booth. They were selling posters, CDs, jackets, shirts, jerseys, and even underwear with Bruno Mars' face on them. Although everything was beautiful, it was a bit too expensive for a broke college student like myself. The cheapest t-shirt was \$40, and it was not anything special, but, yes, I bought it.

After spending money on a t-shirt that I will probably never wear, I went inside and quickly found my seat. The stadium was a bit empty, but that changed once the opening act began. Jorja Smith opened for Bruno Mars,

and her voice was delightful. She sounded like a younger version of Rihanna, with song lyrics that seemed to appeal to a more diverse audience. She played about ten songs, which made many of us a bit impatient. People wanted to see Bruno Mars, and it was taking longer than expected.

At 9:30 p.m., Mars hit the stage, starting off the show with "24K Magic," one of the nine songs off his latest album. People were ecstatic, and it was hard to focus on him with all the screaming and singing going on around me.

Mars sang everything off his "24K Magic" album. He sang beautifully despite having been ill in recent days, and his voice was much better and stronger

than in the recorded versions.

He also performed songs from his previous albums including "Treasure," "Just The Way You Are," and "When I Was Your Man." The last song was a particularly emotional one, and the singer had to pause several times to regain composure. This made the performance much more powerful.

It is difficult to decide what was more impressive, the music or the dancing. Mars is an excellent dancer, which was evidenced by how he smoothly glided across the stage. His best friends and bandmates, the Hooligans, also helped make the show much more energetic. They danced, jumped, and interacted with the audience often.

As for the production of the show, Mars and his team have no comparison. They wowed the public with brightly colored visuals and moving stage elements. There were firecrackers, pyrotechnics, strobe lights, and laser effects synchronized to the beats. The whole thing felt like a huge music video, and the audience was loving it.

The encore of Mars' "Uptown Funk" concluded the show, and the audience was showered with gold confetti. Soon after, people seemed to forget that merchandise was expensive and fought each other to purchase whatever was left that would remind them of that magical night.



Renegade Events

News

Bakersfield College is now smoke-free, and people are no longer allowed to smoke tobacco on campus.

Campus Events

- Nov. 15:** Open Enrollment of Medi-Cal and Covered California in the Campus Center Quad from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Nov. 15:** Google for Internet Searching Workshop in L217 at 2 p.m.
- Nov. 15:** CalStateApply! Workshop in CSS 151 from 2-3 p.m.
- Nov. 15-18:** George Orwell's 1984 at the BC Black Box Theatre. Shows at 7:30 p.m. and a matinee on Nov. 18 at 2 p.m.
- Nov. 16:** Finding Books and Ebooks Workshop at L217 at 8:30 a.m.
- Nov. 16:** Counseling Outside the Box outside of the Campus Center from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Nov. 16:** BCSGA Workshop: How to Run an Effective Meeting in CC5 at 2 p.m.
- Nov. 16:** "Dynamic Earth: Exploring Earth's Climate Engine" at the BC Planetarium from 7:30-8:45 p.m. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$6 for seniors and children.
- Nov. 17:** Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress Appeal Orientation in CSS 151 from 10-11 a.m.
- Nov. 17:** Rape Aggression Defense Training Part 1 in the Fireside Room from 1:30-7:30 p.m.
- Nov. 18:** Rape Aggression Defense Training Part 2 in the Fireside Room from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Nov. 20:** CalStateApply! Workshop in CSS 151 from 10-11 a.m.
- Nov. 20:** Transgender Day of Remembrance in the Fireside Room from 12-1 p.m.
- Nov. 20:** Latinos Unidos Por Educacion StudOrg Meeting in CC5 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- Nov. 20:** Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress Appeal Orientation in CSS 151 from 4-5 p.m.
- Nov. 21:** My UC Application and Personal Insight Questions Workshop in CSS 151 from 12-1 p.m.
- Nov. 21:** Outreach Orientation in Forum 101 from 5-7 p.m.
- Nov. 22:** Classes starting at 5:30 p.m. and after will not be held.
- Nov. 22:** Counseling Outside the Box outside of the Campus Center from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Nov. 23-25:** Thanksgiving Holiday
- Nov. 27:** BCSGA Legislative Affairs Power Lunch in the Fireside Room from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Nov. 27:** Individual "Drop-in" Application Review in CSS 45 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Nov. 27:** 3D Printing Workshop in L160 from 3-5 p.m.
- Nov. 27:** Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress Appeal Orientation in CSS 151 from 4-5 p.m.
- Nov. 28:** Individual "Drop-in" Application Review in CSS 45 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Nov. 29:** Open web registration begins for spring 2018.
- Nov. 29:** Open Enrollment of Medi-Cal and Covered California in the Campus Center Quad from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Nov. 29:** BCSGA Workshop: How to Run an Effective Meeting in CC5 at 3 p.m.
- Nov. 29:** Individual "Drop-in" Application Review in CSS 45 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Dec. 2-8:** Final exams.
- Dec. 9:** Fall session ends.

Off Campus Events

- Nov. 10-18:** "The Book of Liz" at the Empty Space at 8 p.m.
- Nov. 10-12,17,18:** "Suicide Incorporated" at the Empty Space at 11 p.m. except for a 6 p.m. showing on Nov. 12.
- Nov. 18,19:** Bakersfield Comic Con 10th Anniversary at the Kern County Fair Grounds from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday.
- Nov. 19:** Kern County Tamale Fest at Strangler Park from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Adult tickets are \$20 and kids ages 3-12 are \$15.
- Nov. 23:** Visalia Race Against Hunger 5k & 2 Mile Walk/Run in Downtown Visalia from 8-11 a.m.
- Nov. 25:** Condors Teddy Bear Toss at Rabobank Arena at 7 p.m.
- Nov. 29:** Grand Opening of Cafe Rio Mexican Grill's new location at 200 Coffee Road at 10:30 a.m. First 300 people receive a free meal.

Compiled by Megan Fenwick
Social Media Editor



First place for newspaper in 2011, third place in 2013, 2014, 2015 for CNPA General Excellence
Ninth place for newspaper in 2016 for national Best of Show contest by Associated Collegiate Press
Second place nationally in 2016 for website publication by Associated Collegiate Press

The Renegade Rip is produced by Bakersfield College journalism classes and is 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, Associated Collegiate Press, and California Colleges Media Association.

The Renegade Rip

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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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Annual CSUB marathon runs well

By Alexandra Apatiga
Reporter

California State University, Bakersfield held its 2nd Annual Bakersfield Marathon, half marathon, half marathon relay, and 5K on Nov. 12. The full 26.2-mile marathon course stretched across Bakersfield, from the Stockdale Financial District to the Panorama Bluffs right across from Bakersfield College, and had the start and finish line on CSUB campus.

The event began as the first ever marathon in Bakersfield back in 2016, with the initial idea being to raise funds for CSUB scholarships. However, the idea quickly turned into a full-fledged town-wide marathon, with dozens of sponsors like Chevron and Dignity Health, hundreds of volunteers, and runners from across the state, nation, and globe.

Runners who came out to the event arrived as early as 4 a.m. to prepare for the marathon alone, with running partners, or with running teams. While many runners had a personal or even charitable goal in mind while running the marathon, others had bigger plan.

The Bakersfield Marathon is recognized as a world class running event by the USA Track & Field, the national governing body here in the United States that oversees all track and field, long-distance running, and race walking events in the United States. Under the USATF, the Bakersfield Marathon was recognized as a Boston-qualifying marathon and participants had the opportunity to qualify for the 2019 Boston Marathon.

Despite the many participates running locally and internationally, with goals and aims far and in between, all were determined with one mindset – to improve themselves and enjoy the marathon.

Benny Madrigal, a resident of Madera, CA and a marathon runner, ran the Bakersfield Half Marathon and placed first overall in the Men's Division. A runner with type 1 diabetes, Madrigal is a member of Team Novo Nordisk, an American global all-diabetes sports team of cyclists, triathletes, and runners that have members participate in event across the world to educate, inspire, and empowers those affected by diabetes.

For Madrigal, this marathon was a way for him to improve his abilities and prepare for future marathons such as CIM or California International Marathon, and raise awareness for diabetes.

"November is Diabetes Awareness Month and Nov. 14 is World Diabetes Day" said Madrigal. "I felt I needed to win this for all those affected with diabetes like me and inspire others to push themselves and find ways

to do the things they enjoy."

According to Madrigal, the sense of community and level of organization made him feel welcomed and excited to compete in the marathon.

"There are a lot of first time runners participating in the marathon and Bakersfield has a great running community, I'm glad I can get the chance to meet and run with all these amazing competitors," said Madrigal. "What really makes marathons like the one in Bakersfield worth coming to is the people you run with, always pushing you and encouraging you to go further."

Runners throughout the day following the start of the marathon ended their race at Finisher Village at CSUB. Volunteers and various vendors and tents were set up to congratulate the runners with medals, water, and accommodations for the finishers.

The marathon continued into the late evening, as the last of the runners crossed the finish line. Only hours following the marathon's end, plans for next year's Bakersfield Marathon were already underway.

Charles Brown, co-founder of the Bakersfield Marathon, explained that they plan to make the next Annual Bakersfield Marathon bigger and better than this year.

"Our board of directors, volunteers, and staff are the real driving force for this event, without them we would never be able to coordinate such as large-scale event," said Brown. Along with the community involvement, Brown says they are pushing to improve the marathon further than this year's.

Brown also shared that the community's involvement, while at first hesitant, has grown immensely.

"The community sees the value of hosting a marathon in Bakersfield, because it brings exposure to a city that would otherwise never be in the mind of someone outside our community," said Brown. "And our already existing running groups here in Bakersfield really helped us in spreading the word out to other places, that mixed with shifting views of a marathon in Bakersfield helped us in holding this event."

Brown, who he himself is a participant in activities like the Ironman Triathlon, says that running a marathon can be the most exciting and dreadful experience anyone can experience.

"The most difficult aspect of running over 20 miles is not the distance, but the mental doubt one can get while running, asking themselves things like, 'Why did I even try?'" said Brown.

"But once runners can push past that, and cross the finish line, those few moments afterwards are the most beautiful



ALEXANDRA APATIGA / THE RIP
Men, women and children participants of the Second Annual Bakersfield Marathon begin their run of the marathon at CSUB, in order, to qualify for the Boston Marathon.



ALEXANDRA APATIGA / THE RIP
Bakersfield resident Austin Crist crosses the finish line and places third in the 5k race.

parts because you were able to achieve a goal you didn't even know you could do," said Brown. The 3rd Annual Bakersfield Marathon is planned to take place on Nov. 18, 2018.

It doesn't define me

Mental Health: For mental wellness and awareness

Our struggles are not always visible. I have a specific learning disability that affects my mental health and education. When you are a community college student, normally your goal is to graduate or transfer as soon as possible; however, this can be difficult when you are dealing with a learning disability and battling mental health issues.

Learning disabilities are described as neurologically-based processing problems, according to Learning Disabilities Association of America. There are a variety of learning disabilities that affect students, but there are some well-known terms that I have found ignorant.

All my life I have heard the term "Special Ed" thrown around as a joke. Over time, I grew to be ashamed of having a learning disability. The term "Special Ed" is referred to students who are in Special Education, and it is additional help in schools for students who have learning disabilities.

As a child in elementary school, I did not like the feeling of being separated from my classmates when they did math. I had to leave class to go to another classroom, and this is where I spent time with kids that dealt with similar learning disabilities as me.

There was always some sort of comfort being around these people because they understood what I was going through. My other classmates? Not so much.

I have vivid memories of kids whispering when I would have to leave during a math lesson. I remember in Jr. High everyone knew where the classroom was for students in Special Education. Although, all my other classes were college prep courses, I felt like I was not intelligent. The looks people gave me as I walked toward that classroom is not forgotten.

I have not fully accepted my learning disability, but I do understand it more than I did when I was younger. A person with a learning disability is not "stupid". We are intelligent human beings who have a lifelong condition we cope with.

My learning disability has made me feel upset numerous times. Often it led to emotional breakdowns, where I was angry at myself. It can be frustrating learning subjects because it looks so easy for everyone else. I would hear the same thing from every math instructor I have ever had, "Just keep practicing" or "Go to tutoring to ask for help."

I recall going to tutoring for hours here at BC, I visited my professor during office hours, I stayed up nights practicing, and even took advantage of accommodations DSPS (Disabled Students Programs and Services) provided me. It took a toll on my depression and anxiety because I felt like I was not intelligent enough. The frustration, learning disabilities bring to students, like me, is hard to manage, but it does not mean we are not able to overcome obstacles. Although I'm horrible at math, I have found my strengths in writing.

Those of us with learning disabilities are not abnormal, and many of us go on to have successful lives. There are plenty of creative minds that have this condition.

Daniel Radcliffe, well-known for the "Harry Potter" series, struggled in school due to his learning disability, according to GreatSchools. He is not the only entertainer either, there are several others, such as award-winning director, Steven Spielberg, who was not diagnosed with Dyslexia until he was 60.

You do not have to be famous to be successful. Anyone can have a learning disability. We might have to work twice as hard for what we want, but we are just like everyone else.



Christina Benavides

ACA: Student Health Services helps BC students apply for healthcare on campus

Continued from Page 1

which serves low income Californians, individuals and families must earn less than 138 percent of the federal poverty level.

Recent attempts by congress to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act have left many uncertain about the future of their health care, and the United States Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services announced on Aug. 31 that it would be reducing advertising for ACA enrollment from \$100 million to \$10 million,

effectively cutting its promotional budget by about 90 percent. However, Purcell says that BC students should not worry too much about their health care as it currently stands. "The Affordable Care Act really has not changed in any substantive way since last year," he said. "So the services that people signed up for and became familiar with during the 2016-17 plan year, they're going to get when they sign up again. When they sign up again this year, it's essentially

the same process with many of the same choices. Kern County really hasn't changed."

"I think a lot of students are relying on a wing and a prayer, because they're relatively healthy people and it's difficult to say, 'if I'm healthy and I haven't had to access services, maybe I can keep being lucky,'" said Purcell. "Many students are a flat tire away from having to drop out. And in the same way, many students are an appendicitis away from having to drop out."

MARIJUANA: City Council closes local pot shops

Continued from Page 1

Bakersfield Police Department. During the sweep, it was discovered that many of the dispensaries were stealing power from neighboring businesses and were in violation of a number of building codes. More than 650 pounds of marijuana were confiscated during the sweep. Eighteen arrests were made, including four for felony charges.

Fifteen grams of cocaine, firearms, and upward of \$20,000 cash were also confiscated during the raids.

It is estimated that enforcing the ordinance will cost anywhere from \$1.2 million to \$2.7 million dollars a year, while allowing shops to exist and taxing and regulating them would gain the county more than \$30 million

dollars a year.

Nevertheless, the city councilmembers who voted for the ban claim that they are merely representing the desires of their constituents. While the majority of Californians voted yes on Prop 64, allowing it to pass in last November's elections, the majority of Kern County voters voted against it.

VET FEST: Veterans celebrate

Continued from Page 1

in Downtown Bakersfield. The parade began at 24th Street and L street and included floats from a number of different local businesses and clubs. High school and Junior High school marching bands also performed during

the parade, along with drill squads and color guards.

The streets of downtown Bakersfield were lined with spectators young and old who came to show their appreciation for those who have served.

Poll : Russian Collusion

Do you think more members of the Trump administration should be indicted for allegedly colluding with Russia?

NO
(3) 33%

YES
(6) 67%

BC Volleyball beats West LA 3-0

By Alexandra Apatiga
Reporter

The Bakersfield College volleyball team will be going to the Western State Conference after a decisive win against West Los Angeles College Nov. 10, with a solid victory 3-0.

The Renegades won all sets with ease, scoring 25-4 in the first set, 25-12 in the second, and 25-8 in the final set.

West LA was the Renegades final opponent keeping them between a share of the WSC-South Conference, making BC's efforts to win all the more important, a mindset that BC volleyball coach Carl Ferreira and his team all shared.

According to Ferreira, now that the BC volleyball team is set to enter the WSC-South Conference 16-bracket, even a single

loss will end their season.

"Tonight's game demonstrated the team's exceptional rhythm and focus that will be crucial going into the playoffs," said Ferreira. "You could feel a sense of urgency because of the stakes tonight and that urgency will be following us as we enter the conference."

Ferreira says that the team's seat in the conference bracket will be revealed Nov. 16, as well as who they will be competing against.

As for Friday night's game, the team was led by Alex Paris and Rachel Hoover, with 14 and 10 kills respectively. Haley Sanchez followed suit with 13 digs. Altogether, the BC volleyball team had a hitting average of .470 percent, with 6 blocks, and a total of 34 digs and 22 aces.

BC Sophomore and Setter Ali

Sikes share her thoughts on winning the final game before playoffs.

"We all played unified as a team, the energy was high and we were giving constantly to one another," said Sikes.

According to Sikes, going into the playoffs she and her teammates will have to prepare themselves mentally and continue in keeping their focus and rhythm in sync for the conference. Yet despite the stake they faced at Friday's game and the challenges they are bound to face at the conference, Sikes shared her pride in her team coming so far.

"I've seen every one of my teammates grow and develop in different ways and it make me feel like a proud mom, watching them all come into their own."



ALEXANDRA APATIGA / THE RIP

Ali Sikes saves the volleyball from hitting the court, allowing the Bakersfield College Renegades to win a point for the play during the home game match against West LA.



ALEXANDRA APATIGA / THE RIP

Bakersfield College Volleyball player Alex Paris prepares to spike the volleyball, jumping midair, on West Los Angeles College during a play.

Horack is the most efficient in CA

By Karla Gutierrez
Reporter

Bakersfield College volleyball coach Carl Ferreira said that Brooke Horack is ranked the most efficient middle blocker in the state. Horack has been playing volleyball since the 6th grade and has been playing since.

"When I was little, I did gymnastics and that didn't really work out, so my dad said 'How about volleyball' and I said 'okay.' I played club. I played in a club called BBC and did [Bakersfield Club] Jamba club my senior year."

Horack mentions that one of the challenges of playing volleyball is that it's a mental sport. When playing or practicing, it's important to have the right mindset.

"Coach Carl helps me with having that mindset," Horack said. "His focus in volleyball is to make us be the best version of ourselves. [For example,] we meditate before every practice which eliminates distractions. He likes the relationships, so we work on relationship and really serving each other. I think getting your mindset before games like saying you're tired or saying maybe you're thinking about some test. Like really what we trying to focus on is volleyball because that's really what we control. We're in that moment. So yeah, he really wants us to focus on the moment."

Horack stated that volleyball practice is more of them working as a team and working on the chemistry. She adds that being there for each other is important because they are like a family. Focusing on that is when, as she mentions, they play the best because they are not just playing as players, but as a unit.

Horack remarks that the most challenging part of volleyball is



ALEXANDRA APATIGA / THE RIP

Brooke Horack readies herself for an upcoming play as team mate Alex Paris hits the ball over the net toward West Los Angeles College, where a West LA player tries to block at the home game on Nov. 10 inside the Bakerfield College gymnasium.

the mental aspect of it.

When discussing what kind of diet they have to have Horack said, "We don't really have a diet. Coach says that 80 percent of our diet should be good. So if you eat all day, healthy, then it's fine if you have ice cream at night. Mostly when we go out of town with [Coach Ferreira], we go to whole foods or stuff like that."

She comments that they work-out with Zack Peters, who is the Director of Strength and Conditioning, to strengthen their muscles. Then they go to the assistant athletic trainer, Mike Medeiros,

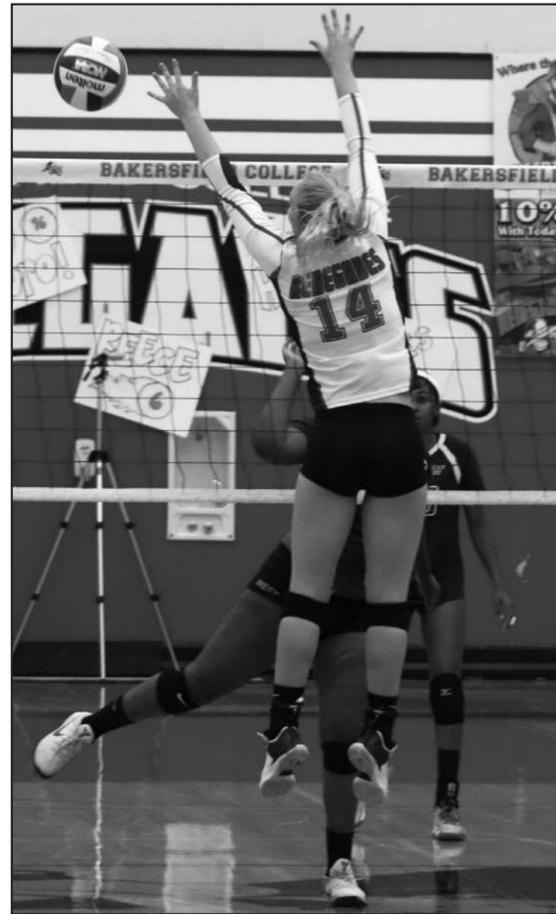
who helps them recover, which she mentions is really helpful.

"The schedule is we practice every day from four o'clock to seven o'clock in the afternoon, but I'm usually here at three because I go to Mike for treatment. Wednesday and Friday are games at 6 p.m. We normally have tournaments in the beginning of the season, but those already passed," said Horack.

When speaking on what she has learned about teamwork she said, "It's not about you or it's not about me. It's about your teammate and it's about really serving them and helping them

on what they need. It's like a hundred zero game. If I'm doing something for a teammate, I'm not expecting anything back. Normally with our team and how we work, they are giving something back because that is how our team is. We are always just working together because that's how volleyball is. Like if you want to be successful, we have to have good team chemistry."

Horack is currently majoring in animal science. She says that she has wanted to be a veterinarian since she was very little, and she loves animals. She always seemed to want to help



ALEXANDRA APATIGA / THE RIP

Brooke Horack attempts to block the ball midair.

animals because for her they're like her therapy. She does want to continue playing volleyball at a four-year institution, but not professionally because she wants to focus on being a veterinarian.

When talking about who inspired her the most, she said, "I would say my parents and Carl. I didn't know I wanted to play until Carl was like 'you need to play' in good way," laughs Horack. "My parents, they always wanted me to play. They like watching me play. They go to every single one of my games. They don't miss a game, even if it's out of town they'll go."



KARLA GUTIERREZ / THE RIP

Brooke Horack smiles as she poses for a photograph.

Bakersfield College wrestling wins 25-18



MEGAN FENWICK / THE RIP

BC freshman Jeremy Maas is lifted into the air by a West Hills College player during the wrestling match that took place at Bakersfield College on Nov. 2.



MEGAN FENWICK / THE RIP

Nicolas Coria, a BC sophomore, pushes a West Hills College player to the ground.



MEGAN FENWICK / THE RIP

BC college freshman Emmett Kuntz holds a West Hills College player against the mat.



Christina Slater

Computer Guru
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I had a cool time ice skating and falling at the Ice Center

By Christopher Cocay
Reporter

I really love skating, I started skating when I was 7, I had my own roller skates and it took me a week to learn how to use the skating shoes as far I remember. In January of 2017, I had a thought of wanting to skate again, then visited the place and I skated for the first time in 14 years, it was at Brimhall Rd. (Rollerama Roller Rinks) I started skating there every once a week.

Just when I thought I was good at skating, I decided to ice skate, because I feel like a pro when using roller skates.

I thought it would be just as easy, but ice skating is ten times more difficult than using roller skates, it was my first time ice skating, I came in unprepared at Bakersfield Ice Sports Center.

When I got at the ice skating rink, I felt really cold, it was like I was inside a huge fridge, because I thought it was just a normal skating center. I did not bring any protection gear. I couldn't move evenly when I was at the rink because I thought if I made a single wrong move, I would get hurt, plus, the skating shoes were kind of uncomfortable because I wasn't used to wearing those kind of shoes.

I was so scared and excited at the same time because it was something new for me, something I've never done. When I was a little kid, I used to watch "Disney on Ice" shows, and the thing that pushed me to do ice skating was the "High School Musical on Ice".

I thought I could do the stunts that I saw on that ice show once I'm on the rink, but I couldn't. I did not even want to move when I was on the rink. The thought of leaving crossed my mind, but I also remembered that I paid \$11 just to do ice skating, so instead of thinking that it was too difficult to skate on ice, I challenged myself to learn how to do it by taking step by steps.

What I did was watch the other ice skaters and I imitated what they were doing. And when I felt that I was getting better, I pushed myself to be fast, and I ended up slipping on the floor, I was completely shocked.

I even felt a massive pain on my hands, not just that, my back got hurt. I realized that I did not tightened my shoe laces, so I took a break, tightened my laces, and went back to the rink as if I did not fall.

Even though my feet were in pain, I continued skating, it was somewhat fun and scary at the same time. I spoke with one of the instructors of the ice center, and I asked them if I they teach ice skating lessons, and she said they do.

I'm interested in taking ice skating classes because I want to be good at doing it, I want to be a professional ice skater like the people I see on TV or the "High School Musical On Ice" performers.

I took a lot of selfies using my front camera on my phone, and I also bothered the other skaters to take pictures of me, I was that excited. I could not wait to show my pictures to my friends and ask them to skate with me in the future.

Around 3:10 p.m., the skating rink turned slippery, I felt uncomfortable and did not want to skate anymore because I did not want to get hurt again, once is enough.

I stopped staking, since the place would close at 3:30 p.m. anyway.

I went to my car and my whole body was in pain from the fall that I suffered. I had a bad headache because of the cold temperature.

I'm pretty sure it was brain freeze. Like the kind you get from drinking a milkshake too fast, I couldn't even notice my feet's discomfort because of the whole body pain.



MELISSA PURYEAR / THE RIP

Christopher Cocay smiles at the camera as he ties his shoelaces tighter after taking a fall when his rented ice skating shoes loosened while ice skating on the local ice rink at the Bakersfield Ice Sports Center on Oct. 23.



MELISSA PURYEAR / THE RIP

Christopher Cocay steadies himself with his hands as he crawls to the sidelines so he can get back on his feet after a fall resulting in his loose laces made him land painfully on his knees at the ice rink in the Bakersfield Ice Sports Center.

I took two ibuprofens and rested in my car for few minutes. It was exhausting, but I really want to do it again.

It is something I recommend to people who love to skate, but I would first recommend, that they should take classes before doing it.

When I got home, I was still having body pain. The ibuprofen did not fully kick in. I checked my phone and I looked at the selfies that I took one by one, I deleted the ugly shots of course and I saved the decent ones.

I realized that I really had fun even though I ended up getting hurt and having body pain, I literally took a lot of selfies which I don't usually do. And I plan on getting my own ice skates soon so I do not have to rent shoes when I go back.



Christene Hayes, an ice skating instructor, encourages and instructs Christopher Cocay on how to better keep his balance, while on the ice. (left)

MELISSA PURYEAR / THE RIP

Christopher Cocay gets steady on his feet after a painful tumble on the ice that resulted because of loose skates at the Bakersfield Ice Sports Center. (right)

MELISSA PURYEAR / THE RIP

