



The Renegade Rip

Vol. 89 • No. 7

BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE

Wednesday, Nov. 29, 2017

'Miracle Mutts' visit BC students

By Lizette Chavez and Megan Fenwick
Editor-in-Chief and Social Media Editor

The Bakersfield College Library hosted a Miracle Mutts event, to help students de-stress before finals week on Nov. 27.

The dogs were brought in courtesy of Marley's Mutts and were placed in the library's lobby allowing for students coming inside to see the dogs and interact with them.

BC students Andrew Combs, 24, and Julian Moreno, 21, were entering the library in order to study for finals when they saw the visiting canines and decided they had to stop.

Combs and Moreno both said they had adopted dogs and Moreno also shared he had taken in a stray cat, so stopping to pet dogs was something nice for them.

When asked if these types of stress relieving events helped Combs said, "I mean, it makes me happy."

Torie Beck, who has worked with Marley's Mutts for almost two years, was working the event and shared why they participate.

"We come in to try to de-stress before finals [week] and break away some of the stress," said Beck as she held on to Turtle, a brown Labrador, who seemed eager to greet the new students coming in.

Beck also shared some history about the dogs present. She said that some of the dogs brought in were personal pets of the people working the event but others had originally been trained as service dogs, like Dex, a black Labrador.

Dex had originally been trained to be a seeing-eye dog but did not seem to take too well to lessons and found "a better career change" with Dex's owner,



LIZETTE CHAVEZ / THE RIP

Janine Punelas smiles and claps as she watches Sadie, a gray terrier, perform a trick for a treat, at the Miracle Mutts event held in the Bakersfield College Library lobby on Nov. 27.

according to Beck.

Other dogs had been rescued from abusive homes like Emily, a blonde terrier, who was saved from her situation and reunited with her sister Sadie, a grey terrier mix, who performed some

tricks for treats for BC students.

Another treat lover was Sully, a white Bichon Frise, who would walk to where other dogs were given commands in order to receive some treats.

Sully, who is blind, would re-

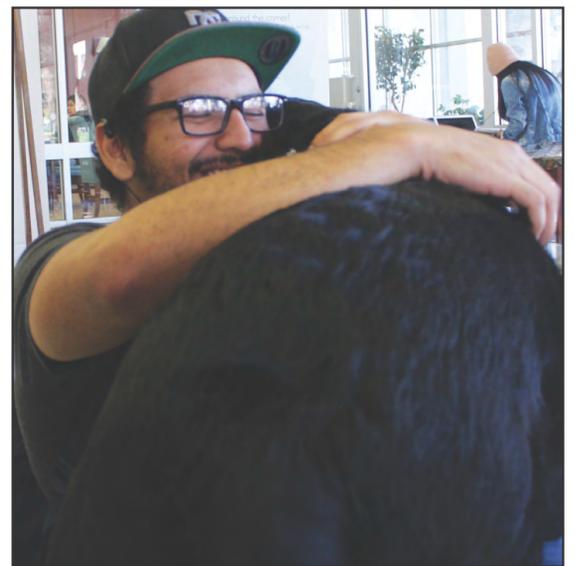
spond to snaps from students and approach them for a pet.

The Miracle Mutts event has been held in past semesters to help students relax for finals. This Miracle Mutts event was held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.



LIZETTE CHAVEZ / THE RIP

Andrew Combs pets one of the "Miracle Mutts", Turtle.



LIZETTE CHAVEZ / THE RIP

Julian Moreno smiles and accepts a hug from Dex the dog.

BC's Holloway performs at CSUB

By Alexandra Apatiga
Reporter

The Music and Theater Department at California State University, Bakersfield held a senior recital on Nov. 18, with CSUB student Merritt Holloway performing the piano for the audience.

Holloway, a CSUB student pursuing a Bachelor's in Music Education and Bakersfield College alumnus, performed classical pieces from famous composers such as Franz Liszt, Johann Sebastian Bach, Sergei Rachmaninoff, and Sergei Prokofiev. Following Holloway's main performance, he finished the recital with "Destination Moon" by Marvin Fisher and Roy Alfred, featuring fellow CSUB students like vocalist Candace Freeman, Bob Townley on bass, and Pat Frase on drums.

The recital, explained Holloway, was a requirement for the Bachelor of Arts in Music degree and was needed in order to fulfill his degree requirements.

"I started at CSUB back in 2008, but had to take a step back and attend BC to fulfill my lower division courses before I could continue at CSUB," said Holloway, "It wasn't until about six years ago that I came back to CSUB and really began working towards my degree in music education."

According to Holloway, his performance at his senior recital was one of the last things he needed in order to graduate CSUB.

Playing the piano since he was 3 years old, Holloway saw music



ALEXANDRA APATIGA / THE RIP

Bakersfield College alumnus, pianist, Merritt Holloway, sits at the piano as he readies himself to begin another musical piece at the Senior Recital of Merritt Holloway event held in the music building located in California State University Bakersfield on Nov. 18.

as a way of self-discipline and self-improvement.

"Not anyone can pursue a degree in music and expect it to be easy, it takes time, hard work, and a lot of dedication in order to master your desired path," said Holloway.

"You just can't cram music; it doesn't work like that," explained Holloway. "And you have to be persistent, if you miss a day of practice, you'll know, if

you miss two days, your teacher will know, but if you miss three days, everyone will know."

Among those in the audience of the Merritt Holloway Senior Recital was Soo-Yeon Park, the Co-Director of the CSUB Chamber of Music and the piano instructor at CSUB.

For Park, the purpose of the music program at CSUB is to help students improve their skills technically and develop new

skills throughout the learning process.

Holloway, according to Park, has been her student since 2009 and has watched him improve tremendously.

"He's made huge progress since I first began teaching him," said Park. "To be able to watch your students grow and come to a point where they are performing in front of an audience, it's very exciting to watch."

Kern County fails to treat eating disorder

By Paige Atkinson
Reporter

The psychiatrist asked if I was willing to enter a treatment center for eating disorders. "Yes," I said. She looked at me, suspicious. "There's an opening at a hospital in Los Angeles," she said. "Go home and pack, you'll be admitted tomorrow." My mother wept. My brother, only eight years old, held on to the hem of my jacket and buried his face in my side.

My mother drove us home, each of us crying in silence. She researched the hospital I would attend, showing me pictures of the facility on her laptop. The rooms were beautiful, full of dark wooden furniture and deep colors. I packed a bag.

I was given a list of items I could not bring: shaving razors, mirrors, anything made of glass, anything that could be broken. I carefully selected each item I would take with me: a picture of my mother, a blanket from my brother, my favorite novel, and a treasured necklace. I was admitted to an inpatient psychiatric hospital the next day.

The first two days of treatment passed by slowly. I had to learn what was and was not allowed, how I could and could not behave; each rule more bizarre than the next. I had little contact with the outside world and limited opportunities to speak to my family. When I signed the consent forms and watched my mother leave the hospital, I despaired. I was 16-years-old, living in a hospital away from everyone who loved me.

Though my time in a treatment center saved my life, the logistics of relocating to another town caused detrimental effects that rippled through my high school career and my adult life. Since I was no longer in my school district, I couldn't attend classes remotely, and when I returned from the hospital, I had missed weeks of school. I had to enroll in a continuation school in order to graduate.

My mother had sought help from every institution she could find, soliciting teachers, doctors, and therapists for resources. Apart from personal therapy, there were no treatments available. The only way I could receive treatment would be to

Please see ED Page 7

Levan Center's new director will be Reginald Williams

By Melissa Puryear
Reporter

Professor Reginald (Reggie) Williams was appointed as the new director of the Norman Levan Center for the Humanities at Bakersfield College, and will begin his role officially in the Fall of 2018. He will replace Jack Hernandez, who is retiring.

As the director next fall, Williams said, "I want to keep doing what we're doing, it's awesome, and I definitely want to preserve all of that."

Williams said he has a desire to launch a few new programs which would include collaboration between other academic disciplines and merge it with the field of humanities. Williams used Cal-Tech Science professors and BC Science professors, collaborating with Humanities professors, in a discussion that is an important public issue, as an example. He said that the program's purpose would be "to raise questions about human values."

This multi-disciplinary approach will create bridges not only within the campus environment but outside the campus as well.

He said he will also work to fuse dialogue between music and humanities. He is currently discussing ideas with Kris Tiner, who directs the Jazz Program at Bakersfield College, and Josh Ottum, director of BC's Music Department, about the program's design which will focus on music from "a structural performance side," with a humanities perspective.

He also said that he plans to work with BC's Art Department, the Humanities Depart-

ment, Bakersfield Museum of Art, as well as work with Cal State.

Williams said that the plans for the programs will be contingent on the budget that is available.

As director, he will still remain a philosophy professor on campus, but will also be meeting, discussing and planning programs for the center throughout the week, where he will be available in his office located in the Levan Center. An average day, according to Williams will be to line up speakers, events, attend budget meetings, create advisory committees consisting of faculty on campus, and also do plenty of research.

He said he enjoys listening to a great speaker, and said he has driven long distances just to see a professor give a talk. Williams has even flown across country, and traveled to conferences and has been the speaker at a few conferences around the world.

On his free time, he travels to art museums in places like San Francisco, keeps his eye out on philosophy engagements in Los Angeles that he can attend, and spends time having engaging in talks with friends.

Williams said that he feels gratitude toward Norman Levan who has made so much possible at BC through his contributions. He said, "Norman Levan loved the core teaching mission at the community college, but he absolutely celebrated teaching. He celebrated the idea that a good teacher, a good academic, is someone who also remained vital in his or her field, and does research. The Levan Center was estab-



MELISSA PURYEAR / THE RIP

Philosophy teacher Reginald Williams smiles for a picture.

lished through him, through his wishes, not just to make us better teachers, but to make us better intellectuals, and better community members, who had a broad understanding of ideas and issues, and how they connect interdisciplinarily and so forth."

According to Williams, the Norman Levan Center for the Humanities at Bakersfield Col-

lege, which was established in 2006, in honor of Norman Levan, for his generous contribution that made the center possible, will continue to feature academic events that look at how humanities play a role in community, and in the lives of people. These free are open to the public, students, staff and faculty members, according to Williams.

Kern Public Health partners with pastor to lower STD rates

By Ambria King
Photo Editor

While being the eleventh most populous county in California, Kern is currently competing with its larger neighbors for the position of having the highest rates of sexually transmitted diseases in the state. The less-than-prestigious title is currently held by San Francisco County, but with a 40 percent increase in reported STDs over the past 5 years, Kern is swiftly catching up. Because of these troubling rates, the Kern County Department of Public Health (KCDPH) implemented the "Know Your Risk" campaign, which aims to spread awareness and information on sexual health issues to Kern County residents by partnering with community organizations – some of which are faith-based.

A 2016 California Department of Public Health report found that one out of every four sexually active teen girls in Kern County has an STD. Kern County ranked fourth highest in cases of Gonorrhea and Primary and Secondary Syphilis, while ranking second highest in Chlamydia. The county also exceeds state averages for Congenital Syphilis, a form of Syphilis that is passed from mother to child during pregnancy, by 344 percent.

Schools in California are not required to offer comprehensive sexual education, although, according to the California Department of Education, more than 96 percent do. Parents must sign a permission slip allowing their children to participate in these programs. Opting out is always an option, and one that some parents in Kern have taken advantage of.

Nearly 50 percent of the residents in Bakersfield, Kern County's most populated city, identify as religious. The city has a strong Roman Catholic base, with more than 30 percent of residents self-identifying as such, and 14.9 percent identifying as Baptist, Lutheran, Methodist, Pentecostal, Presbyterian, or Other Christian. Out of 500,173 eligible voters, 65 percent of the population is registered to do so and the majority of registered voters are Republicans.

In the wake of such a dramatic and dangerous increase in STD rates among residents of a mostly conservative county, the KCDPH was tasked with the mission of finding a solution to the alarming, yet preventable problem.

"Our leadership team came to the realization that Public Health must do more to address this escalating health crisis," said Michelle Corson, a spokesperson for KCDPH. "With internal brain-storming sessions, meetings with community agencies, and thinking outside the box, we launched a multi-year action plan in early 2016 called 'Know Your Risk,'" said Corson.

The "Know Your Risk" campaign is one in which the KCDPH extended offers to local businesses and organizations to partner with them in providing county residents with greater access to sexual education.

"We asked our community for help, including parents, educators, medical providers, media, non-profits, and the faith-based community," said Corson.

The first to accept the invitation was Pastor Eric Simpson of the Bridge Bible Church. KCDPH staff joined Simpson at his church in giving a presentation on ways in which parents should discuss sexual health issues with their children. Video of the presentation, which included

a sermon from Pastor Simpson along with an overview on STDs and methods of protection that was given by health department staff, was taken and edited into a series titled "Talk With Your Kids About Sex: A Faith Based Approach," which was featured on the KCDPH website, YouTube channel, and Twitter account. The KCDPH also purchased billboards that feature the pastor's image promoting the "Know Your Risk" campaign.

"The ultimate goal is to empower parents to have these conversations with their children," said Corson. "The partnership with Pastor Eric was just one way to encourage these actions within families. Wouldn't it be fantastic if all of our faith based groups were educating themselves on our STD health crisis, and encouraging parents to hold these important discussions with their children?"

The Faith Based Approach section on the KCDPH's website does not solely advocate for abstinence, nor do the sermons given by Simpson. The website provides a complete list of various STDs, and information about various methods of protection. It also provides charts and graphs showing Kern County's rapidly increasing STD rates. The website links to the series of videos which contain a number of biblical quotes from the book of Proverbs.

Despite the faith-based approach portion of the website being medically accurate and not focused on an abstinence-only protection method, some Bakersfield residents find the campaign unacceptable due to the close proximity in which a tax-dollar funded county organization is working with a religious institution.

"Faith based means marginalization of people who aren't of the faith being promoted here," said local businessman, Seven Bates. "If they're already going to have a program that introduces all of these health department necessities, why muck it up by promoting a faith based approach... It doesn't matter that they forced a faith-based organization to actually adhere to proper principles. It's still a violation of the Establishment Clause," said Bates.

Bates' statement is not inaccurate. According to the decision of the 1947 Supreme Court case of *Everson v. Board of Education*, the Establishment Clause – which, along with preventing the government from making any law respecting a religion, also forbids government actions that unduly favor one religion over another – not only applies to the federal government, but to the state governments as well. With the KCDPH being a county department, the legality of the department's promotion of a faith-based alternative to Sex Education that specifically lends a nod to Christianity is murky, at best.

"Our invitation went out to all faith-based organizations. No other group has accepted our invitation yet, but we hope to see more partnerships in the future with faith-based groups," said Corson.

Thus far, STD rates in Kern County have increased since the Know Your Risk campaign's start in 2016, but Corson is hopeful that the county will see improvements in the future. "... increased awareness can certainly increase people seeking services and getting tested. We embarked on a multi-year approach and expect that it may take some time to turn our high rates around."

Jack Hernandez, director of the Levan Center for the Humanities, is passing on the torch



MEGAN FENWICK / THE RIP

Jack Hernandez unlocks and opens the door to Norman Levan's old office in the Levan Center for the Humanities.

By Megan Fenwick
Social Media Editor

Jack Hernandez is retiring from the position of director of the Norman Levan Center for the Humanities, which he has held since its inception in the Spring of 2007. Reginald Williams, a philosophy professor at BC, will be taking the position in June.

"I thought, 'Well, I've done a lot, and it's time now for someone else to take over and have some new ideas and do some new things and continue the programs that I've begun,' ... and Reggie's going to do that and he's going to do a great job," Hernandez said about passing on the torch to Williams, who was his student in Introduction

to Philosophy when Williams attended Bakersfield College. "... He's a great friend and he was a great student [and] now a great professor here."

Hernandez has held many jobs at Bakersfield College and the Kern Community College District, but he says his favorite position was teaching, which he "loved most of all."

When Bakersfield dermatologist Norman Levan donated \$5.7 million dollars for the formation of the Center in 2006, Hernandez said that the current facility would not be built until 2010. "Many of our lectures, for example, were held in the fire-side room."

"I really enjoy writing, so I'll continue writing. I plan to have an office; I hope... I thought,

you know, I still want to have a place on campus," he said. Hernandez writes fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and short stories for his young grandchildren. He also wrote the first faculty colloquium for the Levan Center and still plans to be connected with the BC archives.

"I got to know him after he endowed the center. He was very interesting, he had both backgrounds in science and the humanities ... He really loved the humanities and felt they were really important, although he practiced medicine right up until, almost right until, his death," said Hernandez of the center's namesake, who passed away at age 98 in 2014.

One of his goals over the years has been to involve facul-

ty with the center. "I get ... suggestions from faculty because I know that the faculty support these people and are excited about them, then they'll recommend that to students and other faculty members and there'll be a big turnout. So one of the great things for me has been working with faculty on a lot of our events," he said regarding how he likes to find guest speakers to visit at the center. He also enjoys meeting with scholars that visit to give lectures and the book discussion groups held in the center.

"I just hope it continues [and] expands its support of the humanities here on the campus and in the community," Hernandez said regarding his hopes for the future of Center.

Reading Cinemas adds new menu

By Lizette Chavez
Editor-in-Chief

Reading Cinemas Valley Plaza implemented a new food menu tasting on Nov. 16. The new menu which includes hamburgers, chicken club sandwiches, street-style fries and street tacos was created by Food Network Chef Santos Loo.

Loo said, “[Reading Cinemas Valley Plaza] has the only IMAX theater in town, it’s huge, we want to match that on a culinary level.”

Loo who has worked with other theaters across the country in creating similar food programs said he decided on a more Latin-based inspiration for some of his dishes because of the theater’s demographic.

One of the dishes was the street tacos. The plate consisted of three tacos on small corn tortillas, each with different meats like chorizo, carnitas and adobo chicken, all topped with onion-cilantro garnish. The dish runs for \$8 and will be available for \$6 on Tuesdays.

Classic American dishes were not discounted with the theater now offering cheese, pepperoni or bacon pizza, classic hot dogs and gourmet pretzels stuffed with jalapeno cheese or caramel,

all available for under \$8.

The regular combos of popcorn and drinks will still be available, but new combos were added as well, like a kid’s combo meal where instead of popcorn children have the options of choosing between chicken tenders, quesadillas and fries, cheese pizza or a classic hot dog, with a drink and a cookie.

Loo said the tasting preview was a good way to better assess what movie goers would like, to ensure that he and his cooks could alter dishes, add new ones or even remove some.

“Except for the signature burger, that is staying ... a lot of people have said they like it and we like it and it seems popular,” Loo said laughing while he grilled some burger patties.

Other plates that seemed popular were the green bean fries, street fries and the loaded nachos. One movie goer, Susie Muralles, 20, who was attending the Justice League movie premier opted for loaded nachos because she felt that it added a new twist on classic nachos.

Muaralles said, “I ordered loaded nachos, because I thought they added a kick to regular nachos and I didn’t want the popcorn. The taquitos looked good, too.”

Muralles shared that because she lives in Lamont she does not really go to the movies often but seemingly taken by surprise with the new menu, Muralles said she would probably come back to the theater and try a new dish.

Something that Loo hopes will help people try new dishes is to spread the word to the community, and the best way he believes is through word of mouth by the people who come and taste the dishes.

“Word of mouth, social media, this move is pretty popular especially with young folk, they appreciate new things.”

Some people that appreciated the new menu were Bakersfield College students David Hughes, Daniel Ruiz, Mario Saldana and Joshua Daigle, who were working in the kitchen with Chef Loo. Hughes, 19, said he was caught slightly off guard when he came in expecting a normal day of work and found himself in the kitchen instead.

“I had no idea, it was like whoa. It was unexpected, I just came to work and ...,” Hughes said while working on a chicken sandwich before he gestured to his co-workers Ruiz, who was taking out some green bean fries and Saldana who was setting down finished dishes for Daigle



LIZETTE CHAVEZ / THE RIP

Chef Santos Loo adds a final touch to the “Street Tacos.”

to deliver to guests. “It’s pretty cool.”

The Reading Cinemas Val-

ley Plaza new menu officially became a part of the theater on Nov.17.

BC ceramic student to host holiday sale in FA20 on Nov. 30

By Melissa Puryear
Reporter

Bakersfield College ceramics students will be hosting a holiday sale at the Fine Arts studio in room FA20 on campus Nov 30 -31. Ceramics will be sold from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the first day of the sale and 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. the following day.

The Ceramics instructor, Darrin Ekern, said that the students created these pottery pieces throughout the semester, and they include functional pottery that you can expect to eat from, drink from, and use in everyday kitchen food preparation. The sale will include bowls, and cups with handles in all kinds of variety and sizes. There will be jars, bottles, teapots, and plates created by the more advanced students, which can typically be

very large pottery pieces.

“It’s a different experience to use handmade work, that’s an original piece,” said Ekern, whose own cupboards are filled with handmade pottery. He said at dinner time, everyone in his family has a different plate. “It’s not all matching.”

“The vast majority of pottery are food grade, dishwasher, oven and microwave safe, with better quality and durability, than what is typically purchased in the store,” said Ekern.

Those ceramics that are for decorative purposes will be featured separately and labeled, so there isn’t any confusion for the buyer who wishes to purchase only food grade pottery instead.

The “one-of-a-kind pottery pieces,” will range from \$5 to \$45 depending upon the work, design, size of the piece, mate-

rial and finish used, according to Ekern.

For example, a drinking cup with a handle ranges from \$10 and up, whereas a large beer stein or large salad bowl can range from \$25 or \$35 and up. Buyers can purchase their ceramic pieces by cash or credit card during both days. The money raised from the ceramics sale will help to fund the Ceramics Foundation which facilitates visiting artists and the purchase of special equipment for the ceramics class during the year.

“This kind of sale will give the students the experience of taking part in not just designing their work but seeing that their work has value from a business perspective,” said Ekern.

He said the ceramics sale shows students the importance of their art work. He also said



MELISSA PURYEAR / THE RIP

A ceramics display in Fine Arts room 20 features the work of Darrin Ekern, the instructor for ceramics courses at BC.

students can make “amazing stuff” and also make a living through their art.

The FA building, where the

ceramics sale will be held, is located on the east end of campus, near the solar-paneled parking lot.

Elements Venue and Banquet Centre host 80’s Party

By Melissa Puryear
Reporter

The Elements Venue & Banquet Centre at the Historic Ice House on Chester hosted its 80s Party Vol #4, complete with live music and a dress up contest throwback to the 80s on Nov. 25. The cover charge was \$10 per person with the option to upgrade to VIP seating.

The party scene was filled with a crowd that grooved to upbeat 80s pop, and at one point, party goers danced together in a single file line, in the style of Soul Train, through the venue’s two rooms. The dance party continued for 7 hours and momentarily took a time out, to pick the crowd’s favorite 80s dressed patrons.

Songs like “Material Girl” by Madonna, “Time After Time” by Cyndi Lauper, and “Living on a Prayer” by Bon Jovi were performed by a five-singer band called Members Only, under spinning lights, with emcee

Manuel G. who hosted the event.

The \$100 cash prize for best dressed 80s style went to Jan Jarrett, a Highland alum, graduating Class of 1991. “That’s amazing!” she said, when asked about how winning the 80s contest made her feel.

“I put a little bit of effort into it, but I didn’t think it was enough effort to win, so I’m excited.”

Jarrett put together her outfit with an off the shoulder t-shirt, white chucks, jeans, mesh fluorescent gloves from Downtown L.A. and fashion jewelry in the style of the 80s. She said, she used “odds and ends” she put together.

“I had to go to my mom’s house to get like different earrings. I went to the store to get a different ribbon and I just did it the last minute with like two hours before I came,” she said.

She had to convince her husband to tag along because he is not into the club scene. Jarrett said it was the fact that she had

mentioned the dress up contest and prize money that he eventually agreed to go.

She plans to put the money in the bank because she is renewing her vows in February. “We’ll be married for 15 years, so I think I’m going to put it towards that.”

Lupe Ybarra, from Mexico City, had her eye on the prize money too. In her fluorescent tulle skirt, leggings, plastic fashion jewelry with dangling earrings from the 80s, a head band, gloves, and leg warmers, she laughed and said, “I tried to create it like Madonna,” referring to her outfit.

Ana Bernal, of Highland, Class of 1990, also attended and she too, had her eye on winning the 80s dress up contest. She wore a black leather mini skirt, a ruffled sweater with puffy shoulders, gloves, and boots. She said, “I’m half Madonna, the elegant Madonna.”

She said that she attended because she is a fan of the 80s and a fan of Madonna’s.



MELISSA PURYEAR / THE RIP

Lupe Ybarra of Mexico City smiles and strikes a pose on stage in her 80s inspired outfit with other contestants during the Elements Venue and Banquet Centre 80s Party Vol #4 event held at the Ice House on Nov. 25.

Pay to win loses fans

Video Game Culture:
From a veteran’s perspective

With Electronic Arts releasing “Star Wars Battlefront II” was given major backlash from the gaming community because of the game being pay-to-win.

This term, pay-to-win, is labeled onto video games that are seen as being able to pay money in order to get an advantage over someone who does not pay money.

This is prevalent today in mobile games, but now companies have been making games pay-to-win. The fight against pay-to-win is not easy for gamers.

There are two ways to combat it, either yelling as loud as you can on the internet about how much you do not want a game to be pay-to-win, or to boycott it.

The way that the gaming community was able to convince EA to remove pay-to-win aspects from their game was by yelling really loud and refunding the game.

“Black Desert Online” is the game that I am playing the most right now.



Brandon Cowan

BDO is a massive multiplayer online role-playing game. It costs \$10, but it has pay-to-win mechanics in the game.

On Nov. 24, North American players had an in-game protest to combat server lag and many other aspects about the game including pay-to-win.

BDO has a shop where players can buy in-game items with real money. Some of the items that players can buy are pets that pick up loot automatically and inventory expansion to hold more loot.

Players who buy these items can then sell them on the marketplace in BDO in order to get more money in the game.

With in-game currency from buying items with real money, players can get more gear in the game in order to do more damage and take less damage from players.

The main point of the protest in “Black Desert Online” was server instability. The servers had been so laggy and causing players to disconnect repeatedly. I had been disconnected from the game every minute for four days. I could not play the game.

There was also a podcast hosted on Twitch to discuss the issues and what the protest was about so that the developers could get a clear understanding of what players wanted.

Although BDO has pay-to-win aspects in the game, it does not have loot boxes.

EA’s Battlefront II was pay-to-win because players could buy loot boxes to unlock heroes or to get better weapons.

These loot boxes are a game of luck. You have a chance of getting cards that are better than others and people have been calling this gambling.

I could not agree more.

“Overwatch” is another game with loot boxes in the game, but there are just cosmetics that you can get from them. These do not give the player an edge over other players that do not pay for these loot boxes, but it is still gambling.

You have a chance of getting something good or something not so good when you open loot boxes in “Overwatch” or EA’s Battlefront II.

Loot boxes should be considered gambling and should coincide with U.S. State laws on the legal ages of gambling.

This would force developers to not put loot boxes in their games because they would lose revenue from people not being able to legally play their game.

BC’s Podcast encourages students to join the program

By Melissa Puryear
Reporter

Bakersfield College’s Renegade Minute is a podcast feature of the Commercial Music Certificate of Achievement Program that is recorded each fall, called Sound Design and Synthesis. The podcast program features

guest speakers, and produces mini recordings in its studio, and can be heard online.

The Renegade Minute sound clips average about 10 minutes in length, with an impromptu feel, where guest speakers are chosen by the commercial music student who typically is someone that is known by the student.

Most guest speakers invited into the studio for an interview consists of students, staff, faculty of BC or people involved in the BC community.

Dr. Josh Ottum, the director of the Music Department, said that he wants students to experience recording and editing audio during Sound Design, the course

which allows students to produce their work.

“I wanted them to get a first-hand experience with synthesis, and learning how synthesizers work, with knobs and keys and crazy stuff, and that has a lot to do with shaping sound from the ground up, and so all of the episodes students put together con-

sist of field recording, interviews they did, that they had to mix, alongside of electronic sound that they create on a synthesizer,” according to Ottum.

Ottum also said that part of the process of sound tracking includes adding background music to give “emotional weight” Please see Podcast, Page 7

2017 Comic Con sees stellar cast



LIZETTE CHAVEZ / THE RIP

A Bakersfield cosplayer walks around in a Xenomorph costume from the movie Alien at the 2017 Bakersfield Comic Con event held at the Kern County Fairgrounds.



LIZETTE CHAVEZ / THE RIP

Actor Keith Coogan, best known for his roles in "Adventure in Babysitting" and "Don't Tell Mom The Babysitter's Dead", smiles as he poses for pictures at the 2017 Comic Con.



LIZETTE CHAVEZ / THE RIP

Actress Pat Priest takes some of her last photos with a fan in her final convention appearance ever at Comic Con.

The Renegade Pantry holds third turkey draw

By Christina Benavides
Reporter

The Renegade Pantry gave Bakersfield College students an opportunity to win a turkey through a turkey drawing conducted by the Office of Student Life on Nov. 16.

This is the third turkey drawing, resulting in 529 BC student participants according to pantry coordinators. They also mentioned that 93 turkeys were given away to students who met the

requirements. To have received a turkey you must have been enrolled in 0.5 units, and filled out a drawing form online through a link directed by the pantry on the BC website.

BC students had Nov. 13-16 to enter the drawing. On Nov. 16 the drawing closed at 7:30 a.m. and students were called that morning.

They had until 3pm to retrieve their turkey with their BC ID card otherwise their turkey would be passed on to another student.

That was not the only opportunity for assistance with their holiday meals. The pantry distributed boxes of side dishes on Nov. 21.

This was held on a Tuesday, which is the day fruits and veggies are also distributed.

Due to the donations given by the community, the pantry was able to assist students for the holidays. Donations of clothes, food, and hygienic products are appreciated and can be brought to the Office of Student Life located at Campus Center 4.



LIZETTE CHAVEZ / THE RIP

Karla Garcia stocks some canned food as she explains The Renegade Pantry's donations, stocking and distribution process for the Thanksgiving Day distribution.

Renegade Struggles: Melissa Puryear

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 Melissa Puryear
Reporter

I decided to return to Bakersfield College to finish my journalism degree in the summer of 2015. I had only a year to use my GI benefits from having served in the Army, before they expired, and at the insistence of a former college advisor, I returned to college to finish what I had started years ago. I was confident about my future, and knew that I was passionate about news and writing. I could see myself doing this for the rest of my life. I didn't realize at the time that that it wouldn't mean 55 years from now. My life was defined by only a few months and a few years at best, depending upon the choices that I made within those next few weeks to save it.

I received the news by phone. It was in June 2016. I was sitting in my Argumentation and Rhetoric Class on campus when I received the call. So I stepped out of the classroom. My doctor said, "The tests came back positive for breast cancer. We need to schedule an operation as soon as we can."

It was pretty devastating to hear the word cancer. I felt betrayed by my body. What do you do when you have been diagnosed? You think of all of the worst pictures in your mind. I did. I thought about dying. Maybe because the doctor didn't detail the exact the stage I was in, but that I needed to go to surgery as soon as they could schedule it.

I began to look at all of the hard work I had done as a student at BC since the previous fall. I was angry that I had put all of those hours and months in. I was angry for the countless millions of people who get the same diagnosis as me. I blamed God because I could. I blamed myself. Maybe it was because I didn't eat well enough. I drank too much coffee and soda. That's a challenge to face something devastating without blaming yourself for the reason it happened. It's also false, something I would find out in my road to recovery.

The doctors wanted to schedule an operation. They were talking about mastectomy. I wanted to wait until graduation, which would be in the fall

of 2018, but they said that my cancer was too aggressive to ignore. If I waited until even the following summer, in all likelihood I would be a cancer statistic, not a cancer survivor.

It was a long road that I walked down that month. I had a lot of planning to do. I had to plan to live. I had to plan to die. I had to plan for surgery, recovery and in the midst of all of that, I had to plan to also succeed, in order to remain on track for graduation. It was a tough summer and a tough winter that I would face.

The surgery was scheduled one week prior to the beginning of the fall semester. A few days after major surgery I was walking into my public speaking class and felt that everyone must know that I was not well, and maybe they could see evidence of my drain tubes. It was not a beautiful experience. I felt incomplete, powerless, less of a woman, my femininity was gone, and I did not know if what I had worked for would be lost, if I would be lost in all of this. But I persisted anyway.

Although I was in and out of the hospital in emergency



AMBRIA KING / THE RIP

Bakersfield College student Melissa Puryear smiles as she poses for her struggle photo.

room after emergency room for complications, and rushed into emergency surgery after my last final exam for public speaking. I had maintained As.

I went through six months of recovery and by June 2017, I was walking over a mile a day to and from campus to get my cardiovascular system conditioned again. I had more fight

in me to live and to thrive. I am now a journalist at the Renegade Rip. I will be part of the editorial staff next semester, pursuing a summer internship next summer and graduating in the fall of next year. After everything that I have gone through as a student, as a cancer survivor, I know that I'm much stronger. I realize that success

is in the day-to-day things, the climbing over obstacles and the stick-to-it spirit I have, even if I don't know what tomorrow will look like. I can choose to give up or keep going. I am willing to have bad days, that are beyond my control, and then I just let it go. I am willing to fight for life because life is a pretty noble thing to fight for and win.

Orwell's dystopian society '1984' comes to life inside the Black Box



KARLA GUTIERREZ / THE RIP

Winston Smith (Andrew Beard) performs a monologue

By Christina Benavides
Reporter

The theatrical performance of George Orwell's "1984" took place in The Black Box Theatre at Bakersfield College on

Nov. 17. The play was based on English author George Orwell's "1984" novel that was published in 1949.

The reenactment by Bakersfield College students occurred for over two hours. Doors

opened at 7 p.m. and audience members seated themselves. As the audience waited for the 7:30 p.m. show, there were four TV screens hanging from the middle of the room displaying a phrase that would later be heard numerous times from the Inner Party.

"Ignorance Is Strength. War Is Peace. Freedom Is Slavery."

The story takes place in Oceania, a totalitarian state, where it is split into three classes: the Inner Party, Outer party, and the Proles. The Inner Party is privileged. Their living conditions are significantly better than the other classes. They are groomed at a young age and are selected for leadership. In return, they are treated luxuriously in comparison to the others. Comrade O'Brien (Chris Nisbett) had a villainous mannerism towards anyone who went against Big Brother (Brian Purcell).

In Oceania, everything is monitored, there is government surveillance always watching. The purpose for this is to minimize "thought crime" which is thinking against Big Brother. Comrade Syme (Issac Satawake) who works in The Ministry of Truth, translates everything to newspeak, whereas old speak is not allowed in

Oceania. Words are destroyed to destroy thoughts.

To ensure residents of Oceania do not have second thoughts about Big Brother, they have a "2-minute hate" every morning.

During the performance, comrades shouted "Swine" and "Liar" at the TV screen of a video of Goldstein. In the video Goldstein says, "Down with Big Brother," and comrades reply with "Down with Goldstein."

Emmanuel Goldstein and Big Brother are never shown in person; however, Goldstein leads those who are against Big Brother.

Comrade Winston Smith (Andrew Beard) and Comrade Julia (Carlie Wood) are young lovers, who are a part of the Outer Party. Julia was the first to have doubts about Big Brother, then Smith started to as well. Smith and Julia began to question what life was like before Big Brother.

Julia and Smith decide to wed, and stay with Landlady (Joy Wheat) but are shocked when the Landlady turns them in to O'Brien. They confess to him that they stand against Big Brother.

Their confession lands Smith in Room 101. This is where

Smith is starved, deprived of sleep, and is seen looking defeated. Smith is even tortured with rats by O'Brien. He has a breakdown when O'Brien denies that "2+2=4." Smith is seen throwing blocks given to him to make "2+2=5" and is in tears. His emotional breakdown leads him to eventually crack, and he says "2+2=5." He even expressed how much he loves Big Brother.

In the last scene Smith, Parsons (Nicole Nieto), and Julia are seen at the Chesnutt Café. Smith, especially is pleased to hear the good news, Big Brother has won the war for them. Everyone was joyful.

Andrew Beard who was in two previous productions at BC, mentioned that he and Winston Smith were very alike. He did not find it hard to get into character because of this very reason.

"It didn't take that much work to have an emotional breakdown in front of others because I could relate to the character and feel the fear and frustration that I allowed it all to just come out," Beard said. He also included that he could feel the injustice that was happening to Smith and it was that resonated with him the most.

Keep your head up to keep the lbs down

Health Advice: Practical tips for staying healthy

If you walk around campus, you are likely to find a vending machine filled with snacks in virtually every building. Even in the bookstore, you can purchase anything you crave. You can see people eating in the most random places, such as the restroom. Yes, I am talking about the ones near the cafeteria.

There is food that tempts us everywhere we go, but that is okay. I believe that one of the reasons why many of us struggle with weight loss or gain is that we think that only certain types of food are allowed. For example, we believe that we should never have carbs if we want to lose weight. Here is the issue: Things that are forbidden are ten times more interesting, and we know it.



Jenny Brito

Every single diet I have tried is based on the same idea. If you deprive yourself of X, then you will lose weight. As I have mentioned in the past, those diets work, but the results are not sustainable. Even if they are, they make people miss out on many things. People should not feel as if they are a huge failure because they had a cookie.

I cannot tell you how many times I have said no to things because of the belief that they were forbidden. On my last birthday, I chose not to have a piece of cake and watched as my family devoured my favorite cake. Everybody was so proud of my self-discipline. Me? I could not wait for them to leave so I could sneak a taste!

Living with so many restrictions is no fun, and it puts people on an endless, guilt-ridden cycle. We eat healthy, slip up, feel bad, then start again. That is no way to live, and the all-or-nothing approach to good health should no longer be the norm.

To me, things began to change once I realized that I did not have to eliminate my favorite foods from my diet forever. What I needed was to have them in moderation. It was that simple, yet it took me years and many failed diets to learn that lesson.

Achieving good health does not have to feel like a chore. We should eat healthy because it makes us feel good, and we should know that it is okay to have a treat occasionally. We should exercise for energy and relaxation, and not only because we want to lose weight. It is okay if we skip the gym one day because our body feels tired. It is not the end of the world.

Instead of making mega-changes, we should tackle a few changes at a time. Taking small, positive steps feels more like an accomplishment and less like torture. That is what becoming healthier is about.

How to start? There are many ways. You could add more grams of fiber to your diet, add an extra serving of veggies at lunch and dinner, drink more water, take 10-minute walks, and get more sleep. Will these result in rapid changes? No, but they will lead to habits that last and make you feel better about yourself.

If you slip up and overindulge, drink too much, or fail to exercise, you will not feel as guilty because you know that you are making changes that will last a lifetime. When you make a mistake, forgive yourself and get back on track the next day. And hey, if you prefer a strict diet, more power to you. The point is that we should all focus less on blaming ourselves, and start living more.

BC students gather in the Fireside Room to remember those who lost their lives

By Christina Benavides
Reporter

Bakersfield College students gathered for Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) in the Fireside Room on Nov. 20.

The SAGA (Sexuality and Gender Acceptance) club hosted the event from 12-1 p.m. to remember those who have been killed with malicious intent. President of SAGA, Juan Contreras, spoke about the history of the day.

Contreras mentioned that TDOR was established in 1999 by a transgender woman named Gwendolyn Ann Smith to memorialize the murder of a transgender woman named Rita Hester in Allston, Massachusetts.

He also mentioned that typically a TDOR memorial may include candlelight vigils, art shows, food drives, film screenings, and marches. Adding, the memorial also includes the reading of those who have lost their lives the previous year.

Shani December Smith, a local transgender activist spoke about her experience with the community. She mentioned that her experience here at BC has been really positive. Smith is an automotive technology student, who did not expect to be warmly welcomed due to the normal reputation of the automotive technology industry.

She began her speech by asking a rhetorical question for audi-

ence members to ask themselves. "What is the first thing you think about when you wake up in the morning?" Smith said.

Audience members pondered as she gave examples of what we normally think about such as, taking our kids to school, or paying bills. Smith responded with what she thinks about.

"The first thing I think about when I wake up in the morning every day, 'Is today going to be the day that I die? Am I going to be murdered today? Is my fiancé going to die today? Is one of my friends going to die today? Is one of the kids I mentor going to be killed today?'" Smith said.

She added that "The last year before today, at least three people did, three people I had known have passed away due to suicide."

Smith explained that 27 transgender people in the United States were murdered between January and the beginning of November of this year. She adds that she believes the number is a lot higher, but they can only confirm 27 due to the system relying on self-reporting and accurate reporting by families and police. Smith mentioned that the police and families will sometimes mis-report someone's gender.

Soon after, the reading of the names began, followed with their pictures as audience and SAGA club members read about them.

After the reading people went up to the podium to speak up about how they felt. Helen Acos-



ALEXANDRA APATIGA / THE RIP

Shani December Smith speaking at the Transgender Day of Remembrance event at BC, in honor of transgender individuals who've lost their lives.

ta, Advisor of SAGA, voiced some advice to those who might not know much about the transgender community.

"When someone tells you their name, don't ask if it's their real name, it's their name. Anyone can change their name, so

always accept someone for the name they give," Acosta said.

She included that if someone tells you their pronouns, you should use them, and do not make a big deal out of it if you make a mistake. Adding, just to correct yourself if it happens.

The SAGA club welcomes everyone, and next semester will be having their first support group for anyone to join, according to Contreras. SAGA meets every other week on Wednesdays in the FA building in room 47 at 4:10 p.m.

Dynamic Earth talks constellations, climate and CO2

By Megan Fenwick
Social Media Editor

A showing of "Dynamic Earth: Exploring Earth's Climate Engine," a production made by Spitz Creative Media and NASA's Scientific Visualization Studio, among others, was held in the William M Thomas Planetarium at Bakersfield College on Nov. 16.

The show, which began at 7:30 p.m., was prefaced by an exploration of the constellations visible in the night sky at this time of year. BC astronomy professor

Nick Strobel used a laser pointer to point out constellations like Taurus, Cassiopeia, and Perseus, which were projected onto the 36-foot dome using a Chronos star projector. The projector was rotated multiple times to allow the audience to gaze at the stars from different cardinal directions. Strobel also showed the audience how few stars were visible in Bakersfield due to light pollution.

"If you were to get on outside of the city, go out in the country or even, better yet, would be to get up out of the valley and go camping in the

mountains, then you would see a lot more stars," said Strobel. Lastly, he showed the audience what the Milky Way looked like on the dome.

"Dynamic Earth" was then played on the dome using a SciDome all-dome video system. The presentation, which is narrated by actor Liam Neeson, began by explaining how the Sun shields the planets in its orbit from dangerous cosmic waves, yet releases its own hazard in the form of coronal mass ejections, all while showing visuals of these solar winds. Then,

the film explained how Earth's magnetic field helps deflect solar winds, preventing it from becoming like Venus, which was described as being a "witch's brew of noxious chemicals, including thick sulfurous clouds," with surface temperatures of almost 500 degrees Celsius due to the high amounts of carbon dioxide trapping the Sun's heat.

The film then showed a computer simulation of how wind currents affect surface ocean currents and how tropical heat extremes result in storms and hurricanes and how heat drawn

from the ocean increases the speed of hurricane winds. The visuals then moved into the ocean to demonstrate how ocean life, like phytoplankton, contributes to the carbon cycle and reduces carbon dioxide.

"... Earth has kept CO2 levels in balance by absorbing and releasing it in roughly equal amounts. Lately, that balance has been shifting. The amount of carbon dioxide from human activities, including cars, power plants, and factories, now exceeds volcanoes by over 200 times," said Neeson.

Restaurant Review

Sushi bar has good service and atmosphere, despite bland food

By Jenny Brito
Reporter

Located on Coffee Road, Bocado's Sushi Bar seems like the perfect illustration of the melting pot metaphor. Two cultures, Mexican and Japanese, blending their traditions and flavors as one is what this world needs, and I could not wait to experience it.

I went in for lunch with two friends and was pleasantly surprised by the atmosphere of the restaurant. The place is beautifully decorated with Japanese paintings, yet there are small things that remind you of Hispanic culture. For example, they play a lot of music in Spanish. Listening to Nicky Jam at a Japanese restaurant was a unique experience by itself.

Bocado's menu does not look much different from other places. However, a couple of dishes certainly stand out. They have a Ceviche Roll, Netflix and Chill, Levanta Muertos, and El Chapo Roll.

I ordered El Chapo, and my friends got the Baked Salmon Roll and Beef Teriyaki dishes. Contrary to what reviewers on Yelp said, the service was not slow, and staff were very friendly, which made me regret not enjoying the food.

You see, all the dishes looked marvelous. I must congratulate the Chefs on the presentation of



JENNY BRITO / THE RIP

The El Chapo Roll from Bocado's Sushi Bar contains a blend of Japanese and Mexican flavors, such as spicy crab meat, cream cheese, red onions, jalapeno and sriracha sauce.

their food. The plates were colorful and inviting, and the food was abundant. At \$14 per meal, they do give you more than enough.

El Chapo Roll was big. In fact, it was so big that it was hard to eat it. I am used to small sushi rolls like those served in most restaurants, but this was not it.

Despite the generous portion, El Chapo was nothing special. It had spicy crab meat, avocado, and cream cheese. What made it different was the red onions, jalapeno, and sriracha. However,

it felt slightly bland. It was not spicy, and the cream cheese was a bit too much.

I was not ready to give up, so I tasted my friends' food as well. By the look on their faces, however, they were not loving it. The Baked Salmon Roll was not bad, but it was not great either. It was similar to what you would have anywhere else, which was disappointing for a place that claims to offer unique flavors.

My last hope was the Beef Teriyaki, which looked amazing. Sadly, it was not my favorite

either. It lacked seasoning. I felt that adding just a pinch of salt would have made it much better.

Overall, the place is gorgeous, and the concept is unique. The service was excellent, and the atmosphere was nice. Nonetheless, the food was not as good or special as they advertised. I wanted to love this restaurant, but I doubt I will visit again.



Book Review

Experience an intimate connection with the author of poetry collection 'The Universe of Us'

By Christina Benavides
Reporter

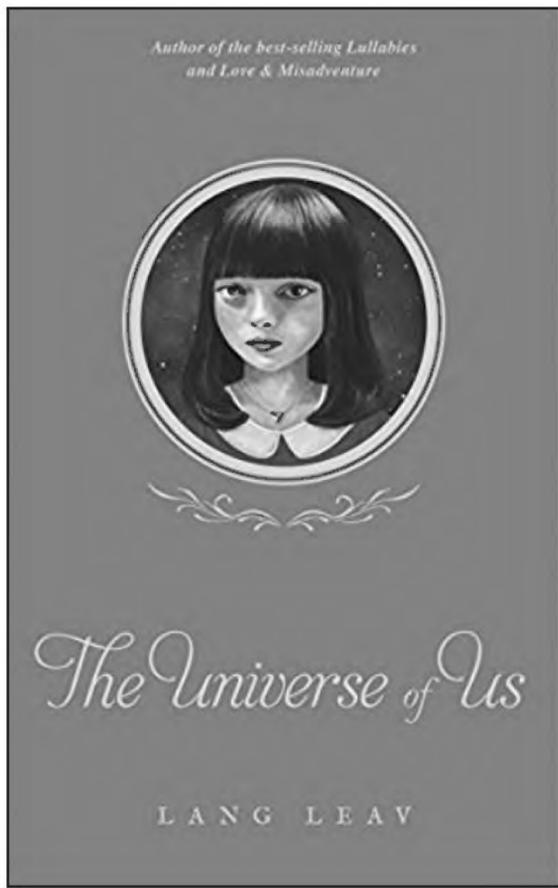
If you use Tumblr, you might recognize some of the poems from "The Universe of Us" by Lang Leav. The international best-selling author has pieces in this book that will either make your heart ache, or you may have a slight distaste for it if free-verse is not your style.

The name of the collection gives away the inspiration, however, the universe and our constellations feeds into some of her poems. In the introduction, Leav describes each book she writes, in a way, as "a tiny universe."

I was given this book by a loved one who knows I love poetry. This was my first time reading one of Leav's books, and I was afraid I would not like her work entirely because she was new to me. Something I did like about this author was how her poems made you feel connected to her. It kind of felt like a friend was reading to me, sharing with me all her secrets.

There were many moments while reading Leav's work where I stopped and was in awe. It was like she was grabbing memories from my life and selecting them for her book. That was impressive, I must admit.

We have all experienced love and loss. Leav expresses these feelings in a way where it is pro-



GOOGLE IMAGES

jected on you, and you ache with her. At least it was that way for me. There were some poems that I felt were more complex in or-

der to sound "creative" and those were the pieces I found hard to connect with. I think the simpler pieces she had were stronger in meaning to me, mostly because she made me feel more when she got to the point, even with less words.

When I said she felt like a friend reading to me, I truly meant that. There were some poems that were hopeful and empowering. She is like that friend you confide in, and she tells you everything will be alright, and that you got this. Leav leaves you hopeful.

Overall, she might have let us into a universe of vulnerability, sadness, heartbreak, and hurt, but nonetheless, she provided hope. It was noticeable that she carefully crafted her words with time and care for her readers.

This was her fourth book in her collection of poetry, and it was released in October of 2016. It was her final book of the collection, and this year she published the novel "Sad Girls," where we see another side of Leav and her writing. All her books are available in book stores worldwide and online.

I definitely will be reading the other three books in her poetry collection. If an author provides a connection with their reader, I am always impressed. Leav left an impression on me. I hope she does the same for you.



Renegade Events

News

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

Campus Events

- 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:** De-Stress Fest Week: Desk Yoga at L217 from 2-3 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.
- Nov. 29:** 3D Printing Workshop at L160 at 3-5 p.m.
- Nov. 30:** Writing Center: Revision Strategies at CSS 151 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- Nov. 30:** De-Stress Fest at the Renegade Commons from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Nov. 30:** Individual "Drop-in" Application Review in CSS 45 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Nov. 30:** Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress Appeal Orientation in CSS 151 from 10-11 a.m.
- Nov. 30:** Season of Light holiday show at the William M Thomas Planetarium at 7:30-8:45 p.m. Tickets are \$8 from adults and \$6 for seniors and children.
- Nov. 30:** Homecoming: An Event with Gerald Haslam at the Levan Center from 7-9 p.m.
- Dec. 01:** Brian's Beard Improv Troupe at the Black Box Theatre from 7-9 p.m.
- Dec. 01:** Sounds of the Season by the BC Concert Band and Orchestra at the BC Indoor Theater from 7-10 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for general admission and \$7 for students, staff, seniors and children.
- Dec. 02-08:** Final Exams
- Dec. 02:** Culinary Caroling Dinner at the Fireside Room and Cafeteria from 5:30-8:30 p.m.
- Dec. 04:** Latinos Unidos For Educacion StudOrg Meeting in CC5 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- Dec. 04:** Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress Appeal Orientation in CSS 151 from 4-5 p.m.
- Dec. 04-06:** BCSGA Student Services Discount Day at the BC Bookstore from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Dec. 05:** Outreach Orientation at Forum 101 from 5-7 p.m.
- Dec. 07:** Season of Light holiday show at the William M Thomas Planetarium at 7:30-8:45 p.m. Tickets are \$8 from adults and \$6 for seniors and children.
- Dec. 09:** Registration Rocks: Spring 2018 Edition from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Check in at the Welcome Center.
- Dec. 9:** Fall session ends.
- Dec. 11:** Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress Appeal Orientation in CSS 151 from 4-5 p.m.
- Dec. 15:** Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress Appeal Orientation in CSS 151 from 10-11 p.m.
- Dec. 18:** Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress Appeal Orientation in CSS 151 from 4-5 p.m.
- Dec. 21:** Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress Appeal Orientation in CSS 151 from 4-5 p.m.
- Jan. 13:** Spring 2018 instruction begins.

Off Campus Events

- Nov. 14-Jan. 5:** Kern Medical Children's Book Drive
- 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.
- Nov. 29:** Comedy Open Mic Night at the Temblor Brewing Company at 7 p.m.
- Nov. 30:** Cam in Concert at Buck Owens' Crystal Palace from 7-9:30 p.m.
- Nov. 30:** Mannheim Steamroller Christmas at Rabobank Arena from 7:30-9:30 p.m.
- Dec. 01-Jan. 06:** Holiday Lights at the California Living Museum. Closed Christmas.
- Dec. 02:** Free Women's Self Defense Seminar in Delano from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Dec. 02:** The 2nd Annual Michelada Festival at Amestoy's On The Hill from 1-5 p.m.
- Dec. 21:** Moscow Ballet's Great Russian Nutcracker at the Fox Theater from 7-9:30 p.m.
- Dec. 27:** Ontario Reign at Bakersfield Condors at Rabobank Arena from 6:30-9:30 p.m.
- Dec. 28:** John Berry in Concert with special guest Jade Jackson at Buck Owens' Crystal Palace from 7:30-10 p.m.
- Jan. 20:** Pizza & Beer Festival at the Kern County Museum from 1-4 p.m.

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

EDITORIAL BOARD

Editor-in-Chief.....Lizette Chavez
Web Editor.....Brandon Cowan
Social Media Editor.....Megan Fenwick
Photo Editor.....Ambria King

Adviser.....Erin Auerbach

STAFF

Reporters/photographers: Alexandra Apatiga, Christina Benavides, Jenny Brito, Karla Gutierrez, Melissa Puryear, Paige Atkinson

Write The Rip

Letters should not exceed 300 words, must be accompanied by a signature and the letter writer's identity must be verified. The Rip reserves the right to edit letters, however, writers will be given the opportunity to revise lengthy or unacceptable submissions. If an organization submits a letter as a group, it must be signed by only one person, either the leader of the organization or the letter writer. Anonymous letters will not be published.

How to reach us

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

CA State Assembly member Rudy Salas attends BC

By Ambria King
Photo Editor

The Bakersfield College Student Government Association hosted a Power Lunch with California State Assembly member, Rudy Salas, at 11 a.m. on Nov. 27 in the Fireside Room.

The event provided BC students with the opportunity to pose questions to Salas, while enjoying a lunch that consisted of grilled chicken, potatoes, rolls and salad.

Salas began with sharing stories of growing up near South Union Avenue in Bakersfield, and went on to detail how and why he became a California state assembly member.

"I grew up asking the question 'why?'" said Salas, "Why is it when I see the helicopter overhead, they're always looking for somebody? Why is it that there are no street lights? Why is it when there are potholes, they don't get filled... You ask those questions and everyone tells you,

'you got to go talk to your city councilman. You got to go talk to the mayor.' So I said, 'if I have to go talk to all these people, how do I get to be that person?'"

Salas chronicled how he went on to graduate from UCLA and work for the White House. He stressed the importance of education in achieving his goals, which is why Salas authors and pushes for assembly bills which increase access to education for California residents. Salas spoke at great length about AB19, which makes the first year of community college tuition free for full-time students in California.

Salas encouraged attendees to get involved in their community and to work toward improving the issues they see. He stressed the fact that voter turnout for young people are far lower in comparison to older voters. Salas stated that if people want their needs to be addressed, they need to participate in local politics by voting.



AMBRIA KING / THE RIP

California State Assembly Member Rudy Salas answers questions posed by Bakersfield College students at an open question and answer session during the Power Lunch, which was held by the Bakersfield College Student Government Association in the Fireside Room at 11 a.m. on Nov. 27.

Recognize the signs

Mental Health: For mental wellness and awareness

Suicide is a controversial topic. Even those who have never experienced it have a heavy opinion on the topic. I speak from my own experience of having suicidal thoughts due to depression, and will be discussing the signs you should be looking for within your peers to guide you toward suicide prevention.

You might assume a person is doing fine because they appear so. People who are dealing with a mental illness will not always look sad; however, there are times when it is obvious that they are not doing well.

Please do not be afraid to approach someone and ask how they are doing. A person who is considering suicide will behave differently. They might even speak differently around others, making comments about how they are better off not being around, or lose interest in things they are passionate about.

I strongly believe that mental illness is

a huge factor that leads to suicide. Anyone dealing with depression who behaves similarly to the signs I am giving you may not have suicidal



Christina Benavides

thoughts, however these signs may lead to suicide if they are. It is important to always be safe rather than sorry. Reach out to people who need it.

I have moments where I will not reach out simply because I do not know who to go to. Not everyone is understanding of those dealing with mental illness due to stigma surrounding it. We will not openly cry in your arms, and confess how bad we have been doing. An incident like this may occur, but often we will mostly keep it hidden.

This is a reason why most people who do commit suicide are people no one would have ever guessed. Sometimes the signs are not recognizable.

When I was in high school, a friend of mine committed suicide. I remember her battling mental illness, and some people thought she was "attention seeking" because they saw self-harm marks on her skin. Instead of people criticizing her, they could have helped her in any way they could.

Although people knew she was dealing with mental illness, her death came unexpectedly to many of us. I recall seeing her a week before she passed away. She was the happiest I had ever seen her. I thought she was finally doing better, but the result proved us all wrong.

She cannot be brought back, however, I have learned a few things. If someone is harming themselves, each time they do, they are already in danger. The signs are there, in their school performance, behaviors and personalities.

I am not asking you to analyze every person you meet. I am saying that you should try to recognize these signs. If you want to approach a person about it, you may, in a non-judgmental way. If someone appears to be doing terrible, be a good person and offer them a hand.

You are not a mental health counselor, so please be careful when giving advice, unless you have experience with what they are going through. Mostly you should direct them to a mental health professional. If someone confides in you, and tells you they have attempted suicide, it is not wrong if you seek help for them. It is better to not take risks.

Again, I speak from my own experience dealing with mental illness and suicidal thoughts. Not all signs are visible, but they can be recognizable if you know them. If you or someone you know is considering suicide, please contact The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255.

ED: Kern County fails to aid residents that struggle with eating disorders forcing them to leave in order to receive help and causing those fighting with the illness to fall behind in school or leaving them with no alternatives

Continued from Page 1

leave my family and education to stay in a treatment center hours away. For my family, visiting me in the hospital and participating in my treatment became increasingly difficult and due to the cost of transportation, my mother could only visit me once during my month in the hospital.

Though taboo, eating disorders are not uncommon. Over 30 million people in the U.S. will experience an eating disorder during their lifetime, according to the National Eating Disorder Association. For those of us suffering from eating disorders in Kern County, there are no options for hospitalization. The nearest treatment center available to Kern residents is over two hours away. The closest available treatment option for my family was in LA County.

The absence of treatment

options allowed my eating disorder to fester, becoming a virtuous part of my being. I spent each day ruminating on my disorder and planning how I would purge, self-harm and abstain from food. By the time I was formally diagnosed, I had been struggling with anorexia and bulimia for years. At the height of my illness, I went without eating and digesting food for over six months. It was only when I began speaking about my own experiences that I discovered how many other men and women had fought similar battles.

Bakersfield resident Ariana Hamisch, 20, experienced similar circumstances when she sought treatment for an eating disorder in high school.

"The only treatment my family could find for me was a nutritionist. I had to go to a hospital in LA," said Hamisch.

Hamisch was hospitalized for

weeks, causing her to miss a considerable amount of school. Since there are no treatment centers in Kern County, she had to drive to LA once a week for outpatient treatment after she was discharged.

"The transition to coming home was very difficult, especially having to leave every Wednesday. Sometimes I was so exhausted I would take the entire week off (from school). It was stressful, for my whole family," said Hamisch.

Lacey, another Kern County resident, who declined to give her last name due to the sensitivity of the issue, sought help through a general practitioner, psychiatrist, and therapist. None could give her the adequate treatment.

"I sought treatment for my eating disorder through my general practitioner, and then my first psychiatrist. Neither

one of them were much help," said Lacey. The only referral she was given was to a nutritionist, something that seems a common occurrence, a bandage placed over a wound.

The weeks following my discharge from the hospital revealed to me the depth of the lack of medical care in Kern County for those with eating disorders. When I left treatment and returned to Bakersfield, I felt as if I were drowning. There were no support groups available, and I couldn't commute to LA each day for further treatment. I went from being monitored and cared for at all times to returning to the environment that allowed my illness to thrive.

"That's precisely why I'm an advocate for treating things locally," said Amy Richardson, a marriage and family counselor who has experience in treating eating disorders. "If you're hos-

pitalized two, three hours away, you come back to a community that is totally disconnected from the support system you developed during treatment. All of the connections you made in treatment disappear when you come home, you come home cold."

Coming home from treatment to an environment with no resources is the fate of each person in Kern County who needs inpatient eating disorder treatment. Eating disorders have the highest mortality rate of all mental illnesses, according to the National Association of Anorexia Nervosa and Associated Disorders. The lack of treatment availability in Kern County is a grave medical failure. The expectation to relocate for treatment is unjustly placed upon people with eating disorders. It leaves just two options: pursue treatment in another city or suffer in silence.

PODCAST: Bakersfield College's Renegade Minute encourages students to join

Continued from Page 3

to the content. From "funny to scary sound tracking, as well as whimsical."

The students create the theme song on the soundtrack that gets featured on every episode for the season, which is chosen from a theme song contest at the beginning of the semester. The introduction song that can be heard from the most recent season, was chosen from 12 songs that were submitted. Every year will give students a chance to have their work featured as the new theme song for the podcast program.

In order to learn how to create podcasts, and use all of the equipment that comes with producing in the field of recording, he recommends students take the music certificate program.

"It's a six-course certificate,

which you can finish it in three semesters. We offer courses in music technology, music business, live sound, recording techniques, song writing and then sound design synthesis. In order to do podcast specifically, a student would have to take introduction to technology because that's a prerequisite for any of the other classes," said Ottum.

He also said, "this is the only program like this within a hundred miles or so, so we're pretty unique."

In this class students will learn the basics about recording and computer audio, a "general buffet style" introductory class, where students produce projects and learn how to use the equipment. The podcast is a staple assignment of the program, which is taught in the fall every year.

He said that he's open to ideas though. For example, he said that if he had a group of journalism students that were interested in his podcast program, he would be willing to accommodate that.

He also said his goal for his students is to equip them with the skills that will allow them to go into the field when they are finished with their certificate program. "They will be given the skills to thrive in this gig economy we live in, meaning if it's for a musician or for audio technician, or a sound engineer, we prepare them with basic skills to run live sound at venues from a church, to a local club to a bigger venue in town. We give them the skills to compose and create audio."

The first graduating class of

seven students from the music certificate program will graduate in one week. He wants his students to head out into the world confident.

Ottum's background as a musician touring and writing music, putting out albums and writing his own songs gives him an appreciation for students' hard work.

Gerardo Carrasco and Sinuhe Arevalo are both Commercial Music students pursuing their Commercial Music certificates. They both will take part in the Renegade Minute podcast program during their enrollment.

Carrasco said that after finishing his certificate he would like to move to San Luis Obispo and continue his education. He said he is very excited about this opportunity to be a part of this

program.

Arevalo said, "I have always had a passion for music, so this is kind of something to revamp that passion that I've had."

Arevalo said he plans to go into business and will be taking the Music Business course so that he knows not only the music aspect of his desired trade but also the business side to music. "I want to represent people eventually," he said.

Both Commercial Music students plan to learn how to do podcast recording and look forward to this feature of the music program.

For information on how to enroll in the music certificate program students can email Josh.ottum@bakersfieldcollege.edu or stop by his office which in PAC room 115.

Bakersfield citizens throw stuffed toys in the rink for 19th Annual Teddy Bear Toss



ALEXANDRA APATIGA / THE RIP

Rabobank and Condor staff and volunteers skate onto the ice to collect the hundreds of stuffed toys thrown by fans.

By **Alexandra Apatiga**
Reporter

Bakersfield citizens came out to participate in the 19th Annual Teddy Bear Toss at the Rabobank Arena Thanksgiving weekend, Nov. 25, where the Bakersfield Condors defeated the San Antonio Rampage 7-3, all while collecting stuffed toys for various organizations and charities.

The crowd of 8,862 people who attended the Condors' hockey game, the third largest crowd in Teddy Bear Toss history in Bakersfield, also broke the record for the most stuffed toys thrown onto the ice during a Condors' game. A total of 10,549 stuffed toys were collected during the Teddy Bear Toss, with fans throwing their stuffed toys over the rink wall and onto the ice following the Condors' first

goal made early in the second period by Condors' player Brad Malone.

The tradition of the Teddy Bear Toss by the Bakersfield Condors dates back to 1999, with the first Teddy Bear Toss racking up 2,553 stuffed toys, which has only grown over the years. As of this last game, the Annual Teddy Bear Toss has collected 121,395 stuffed toys in the last 19 years.

Vice President of Communi-

cations for the Bakersfield Condors, Kevin Bartl, explained that the minor-league hockey team has been involved in the Teddy Bear Toss since its formation almost 20 years ago.

"We began the Teddy Bear Toss at the beginning of teams' second season, and ever since it's become one of the most anticipated games for the players and for the community," said Bartl.

According to Bartl, the toys



ALEXANDRA APATIGA / THE RIP

A man lifts a child in the air so she can throw a stuffed toy.

that are collected following the first Condors' goal are given over to the United Way of Kern County, who then distributes the stuffed toys to various local organizations and non-profits. On average, explained Bartl, around 40 to 50 different agencies reach out to United Ways to receive stuffed toys.

"At the end of the night when we gather all the bears and finish counting them, we try and bless

as many different organizations with as many stuffed toys as possible," said Bartl.

"Our goal since day one has been to be a good community partner and use the spotlight the Condors' have as a vehicle to some good for our community."

Bartl shared his experience and thoughts about the Teddy Bear Toss saying, "It's an amazing sight, it never gets old, and ours is one of the best out there."

Spanish-born Pablo Rebollo plans to continue majoring in kinesiology and playing basketball

By **Jenny Brito**
Reporter

Pablo Rebollo, 20, has only been in the United States for four months, yet he has already become a valuable member of Bakersfield College Men's Basketball team.

Born and raised in Madrid, Spain, Rebollo's major is kinesiology, but he has been focusing on improving his English skills first. In fact, he said that his main reasons for moving to the United States were to practice basketball and English.

He has been playing basketball since he was eight years old. When asked what drove him to the sport, he said that he remembers seeing his father play since

he was little. He grew up surrounded by the sport and quickly became passionate about it.

His parents are his biggest source of inspiration. He is also a big fan of Spanish NBA player, Pau Gasol, who is a six-time NBA All-Star and has won two NBA championships.

Rebollo's talents took him far in Spain. When he was 13 years old, he trained with Federacion Baloncesto Madrid, the basketball association of his home city, for a year.

"When I was 16, I then played for Club Baloncesto Estudiantes, third division, for three years. They are one of the biggest basketball teams in Spain," he added.

At Bakersfield College, Re-

bollo is a point guard on the men's basketball team, and he has contributed to the renegade team's four wins of the season. According to him, "what makes the team successful is teamwork and dedication."

He practices every day, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. He does not follow a specific diet, but he cooks traditional Spanish food whenever he can. "I try to eat as healthy as possible by preparing my own meals," Rebollo said.

In his spare time, he likes to read and hang out with friends. "I like reading poetry. I am currently reading 'Con tal de verte volar,' a book in Spanish," Rebollo added.

When asked about his experience as an international student

and athlete, the basketball player shared that he was glad he made the decision to travel to the United States.

"It has been an unforgettable experience. It makes you grow, become more responsible, and it gives you a new perspective on life," he mentioned.

Having the support of his teammates and Coach Hughes has also helped him better adapt to the challenging aspects of leaving what one knows and moving to an entirely different place.

Rebollo plans to move back to Spain in two years. There, he will continue to play basketball and work on his education. His dream is to play for a professional, third division or over, team.



JENNY BRITO / THE RIP

BC student Pablo Rebollo smiles and poses for a picture.

Kern County Firefighters and Law Enforcement play hockey to raise money for local burn victims

By **Alexandra Apatiga**
Reporter

Kern County Firefighters and Law Enforcement battled it out on the ice at Rabobank Arena for the 19th Annual Guns & Hoses Game over the Thanksgiving weekend, Nov. 25, all in the name of fundraising for charity.

The yearly match-up, which has both sides swap for their choice of charity each year, had the Fire Department supporting local burn survivors in Bakersfield this year through the Kern County Burn Survivors Trust, the Bakersfield Burn Foundations and the Kern Heavy Rescue.

Around 1,000 people attended the charity game where law enforcement beat the firefighters 4-3 after a tied game ended with a shootout in the law enforce-

ment's favor.

Despite the Kern County Firefighter's loss during the game, all proceeds raised would still go toward their choice of charity.

Among those who attended the game was Kenneth Putnam, a former Kern County firefighter, volunteer at Memorial Hospital's Grossman Burn Center, and burn survivor. A local resident since 1952, Putnam retired in 2004 after nearly 27 years of service and becoming a burn survivor in 1997. Putnam has been attending the last seven Guns & Hoses charity games to support the local firefighters, law enforcement and the community.

"These sort of games are all for fun," said Putnam, "and while tempers do rise occasionally we're all here for the same reason, to support and raise funds for whatever charity is be-

ing sponsored that year."

According to Putnam, this year's charity fundraiser would be going toward expanding available resources for burn survivors in Bakersfield and Kern County, such as financial support, transportation, support groups, counseling, and rehabilitation.

"The subject of what burn survivors have to deal with, physically and emotionally, isn't really touched upon when it should be," said Putnam.

"I'm so grateful for the support and awareness the Gun & Hoses will be giving us, and for the community for coming out to support us as well," said Putnam.

Portions of proceeds from the ticket sales will go toward the charities represented by the Fire Department, as will the sales from the specialty jerseys auctioned off by the Condors.



ALEXANDRA APATIGA / THE RIP

Two law enforcement hockey players chase down a firefighter in possession of the puck.

Women's volleyball team suffers loss to El Camino College at Regional Playoffs

By Megan Fenwick
Social Media Editor

The Bakersfield College women's volleyball team lost 3-0 to El Camino College on Nov. 21 during the first round sweep of the South Regional Playoffs, putting them out of the running of the California Community College Athletics Association State Championship.

In the first set of the game, the Renegades lost to the warriors 25-20, although the BC team stayed close throughout the set. During the second set of

the game, the Bakersfield volleyball team lost to El Camino with its largest gap, at 25-14. The teams remained neck and neck during most of the third and final set, but Bakersfield College still lost 25-21.

Brooke Horack, a sophomore middle blocker, led the BC team in number of kills, of which she scored 10, while Jourdon Muro, a sophomore outside hitter, got 21 total attacks.

The Bakersfield College women's volleyball team has done well overall during the fall semester, winning 19 out of 25 of their games since August.



MEGAN FENWICK / THE RIP

Bakersfield Freshman outside hitter Mandy Sangha sets the volleyball over the net as sophomore outside hitter Alex Paris looks on during the playoff game.



MEGAN FENWICK / THE RIP

BC volleyball player jumps up to set the volleyball to El Camino's side of the net during the home game on Nov. 21.



Sarah Armendariz, a freshman setter, jumps to spike the volleyball to over the net.

MEGAN FENWICK / THE RIP

Poll : Student Parking

Should student parking be free for Bakersfield College students?

NO
(6) 35%

YES
(11) 65%



Gregory Wilson

Skateboarding Legend
Music Enthusiast
GET Rider

"GETWorks for me because I can skateboard to the bus and then onto my sweet job at the skate shop. Skateboarding saved my life. GET keeps me on my board."



My metamorphosis from dark brown to purple hair in a six-hour session

By Karla Gutierrez
Reporter

When I was in 7th grade, I always wanted to dye my hair. At the time, I wanted to dye it red, but my mom was very strict on hair dying because she wanted me to keep my hair virgin. She would scare me by telling me all these horrible things like my hair would fall out or it won't grow or it's going to damage my hair. Even though she said that, it never left my mind since then because I wanted to experiment with colored hair. My mom would tell me to get highlights in my hair, but in my opinion mostly everyone gets highlights the same color and I was more into the blue, purple, green, pink, etc. type of colors.

After much research, I decided to dye my hair purple with blue and pink. I got inspired by YouTube star Gabbie Hanna, also known as the "Gabbie Show," in getting an idea of choosing the colors. I knew I wanted some type of a blue in my hair, but then when I looked at the sample photo that I sent my stylist, I knew I was going to like the purple and magenta in it.

My brother was the only one that knew I was going to dye it. The day before, I was very nervous. I was nervous because I didn't know if it was going to turn out good or not. I've never trusted anyone with my hair other than my grandma, who always gave me hair trims here and there. I was nervous because of the big transition from going from dark brown hair to multi-colored hair and wondered how

people would react to it. I have never seen my hair in a different color before, so I knew this was going to be crazy. Though, I knew I've been wanting to do this for a very long time.

I went to Vanity Beauty Bar in downtown Bakersfield, which was recommended by the person who cut my hair last year. My stylist, Mona Medrano, had been texting me since I had mentioned to her that I wanted to dye my hair, and I told her that I also wanted to thin it out. My thick hair gave me so many headaches I just had to thin it. That process alone took Medrano 40 minutes. I was shocked on how much hair she took out because that hair alone could be enough for someone else. Medrano actually mentioned, later, to her co-worker that it filled up their trash can.

The next process was bleaching my hair. Which I had originally thought was where the process began. I was saying my farewell wishes to my brown virgin hair, and then Medrano was cutting it off. This procedure was probably the longest to wait for because she had to add the bleach and then put foil on all of my hair. The foil was to heat the hair and make the bleach process go faster. Sadly, some of the bleach got on my favorite long sleeve shirt, but that was partially my fault for trying to find my "comfort spot" and my hair falling to my back. Medrano told me she had used eight small containers of bleach because I had so much hair.

When the bleach settled in, Medrano started getting the colors. What was cool about dying



MELISSA PURYEAR / THE RIP

Karla Gutierrez celebrates her new purple magenta hair with a glitter photoshoot after sitting for a six hour session.

my hair with the colors I chose is that I let Medrano play with it. I just showed her a picture to get an idea and she just did the rest.

She rinsed the excess bleach and then she put the first strip of hair dye on. The only thing that was on my mind at that point was just excitement and nerves of how it was going to look. Like I have mentioned before, I have never seen my hair dyed into a different color. At this point of the process there was no going back, obviously.

Right after the color dying part was done, Medrano washed my hair and I was asking her questions of how to take care of it, so it wouldn't get damaged. That was probably one of my fears in dying my hair is taking care of it. I feel like I'm not good at taking care of stuff like hair dying or piercings because the process of instructions that usually follows. In this situation, I have to get used to taking cold/warm showers.

When she was done washing my hair, she blow-dried it and started curling my hair. Medrano was very nice in teaching me how to curl my hair. The only thing I know how to do is straighten my hair, but that sometimes results badly when I do it, which is on

rare occasions. I don't spend that much time on my hair when going to school. I just put it into a ponytail that takes about five minutes and that's about it.

When she was done curling it, she did the big reveal and I was in love. It looked better than I expected it to, and Medrano did a great job overall. This was a six hour process, but it felt like four hours. I went into this process of dying my hair afraid and came out loving my hair and wanting to show it off to the world.

My mom and brother were at Costco when I arrived home, so I had texted my brother to warn me when they were on their way to the house. I got my phone and recorded my mom's reaction. She was shocked, but also loved it, too. She said that the stylist did a great job in dying it.

My mom told me that her fear was having someone dye my hair incorrectly and damaging it. If anyone reading this hasn't dyed their hair, I definitely recommend trying it because it's always a good thing to change things up.

It is always important to find an adventure in life. I'm so glad I did this. I'm planning on dying it and experimenting with my hair more in the future.



MELISSA PURYEAR / THE RIP

Karla Gutierrez shows her new purple and magenta hair.



MELISSA PURYEAR / THE RIP

Karla Gutierrez smiles as she waits for her hair to heat up from the foil in order to quicken the bleaching process.



MELISSA PURYEAR / THE RIP

Karla Gutierrez smiles as she takes a look at the hair. Mona Medrano cut to thin her thick hair before bleaching.



MELISSA PURYEAR / THE RIP

Hair stylist Mona Medrano washes Karla Gutierrez's hair during a long six hour session to take her dark brown hair, which has never been altered except for trims, and transforms it into a purple-magenta color for the first time in her life.